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NCMC Bulletin

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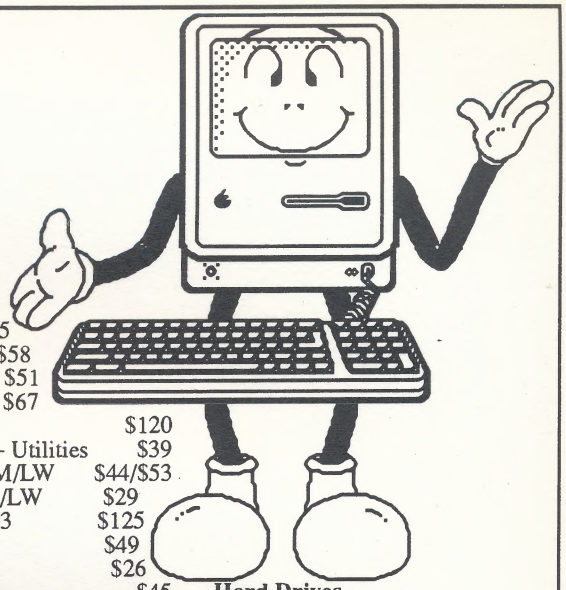

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Direct all correspondence to:
NCMC
P.O. Box 5685, Station "F"
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 3M1

NCMC Information Line:
(613) 236-NCMC

NCMC TeleComputing Services (TCS):
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This month's cover art is by Phil Smy.

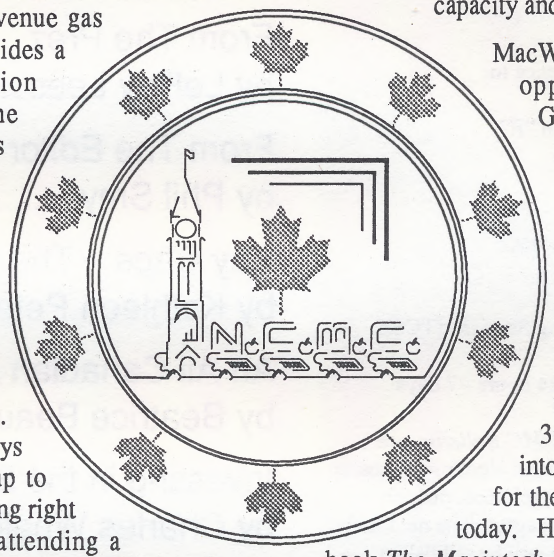
From the Prez

by LeRoy Lees

With the summer of 1989 about to leave us, the past 2 months have produced much activity in the Macintosh world, even though the NCMC schedule was trimmed back a bit to allow the SIGs and your Executive to catch their breath.

First of all, it is gratifying to see public exposure for some of our members. Seeing Charles Whaley's photo with his Macintosh in a 3/4 page spread in the *Citizen* on August 28th, describing how to use a Mac to make money on the stock market makes you realize that there must be about 500 different stories out there coming from each of our 500 members. We all need to take the time to ask each other about how we are using this marvelous machine.

It is also gratifying to see more extensive use of Macintosh graphics in the *Citizen*, as illustrated by such people as Chris Jones, who was an early promoter of Macintosh use in Ottawa. His illustration of the Waverly Avenue gas explosion provides a new information vehicle to the *Citizen* readers which we are sure to see more of.



MacWorld Boston gave us another 3 or 4 days of excitement. MacWorld always seems to live up to its publicity, being right up there with attending a Blue Jays games in the SkyDome. You just are *never* disappointed, and when the event is over, you have to say "Where did all the time go, and why is this over, already". There was something at MacWorld for all of us this year, with both reasonable and superb software, significant upgrades, lower prices on hardware, (such as the 24 bit colour card from Raster Ops), memory prices dropping, and new hard drive technology with lower prices, larger capacity and speed.

MacWorld also gave us an opportunity to invite Guy Kawasaki of Acius, Inc. (4th Dimension) to speak to us on Wednesday, October 11th. Guy is the original Evangelist for Apple Computer, the man given the task of convincing 3rd party developers into developing software for the Macintosh we know today. His recently published book *The Macintosh Way* gives an insight into the fast paced

continued on page 21

From the Editor

by Phil Smy

I hope you find that this issue contains a wide varieties of articles. I have attempted to put in a little bit for everyone. The article on Key Caps DA is aimed at the novice.

We have a very interesting article covering a talk by human interface expert Bill Buxton given at a recent computer conference. For program reviews we have Ross Slade's look into MiniCad+ and an in-depth look at the new Word4 by Roger Stafeckis from Apples B.C. in Burnaby British Columbia. Bam Liem gives us an full report on MUGs across Canada and dealers in the Ottawa area (these are not endorsements).

Charles Whaley, who, along with Randy McElligott gave me a hand in putting together this issue, presents an interesting look at MacInvesting, great for you business tycoons! (Charles was recently featured in the Ottawa Citizen in reference to this topic). Beatrice Beaubien writes a report on the status of the formation of a Canadian Users Group.

For the technically minded we have an article from Apple on their new Communications Tool box software. Also, we have an article on how to re-build the Desktop without losing the Finder's GetInfo comments.

Corrections and Additions:

The NCMC would like to thank CLARIS for all their help in the MacBeach Party!

The NCMC Elections are coming up. If you would like a hand in the running of our club, attend the October general meeting. That is where nominations for all positions will be taken.

The FlashWrite quick review in Vol. 5 No. 4 was in fact written by Phil Smy, not Bam Liem.

Key Caps—The Lost DA

by Kathleen Peter O'Neil

Do you use your Macintosh for typing text? Did you ever want to use the ¢ sign instead of spelling it out? Do you know how to find the sign? Did you know that the Mac allows you to access five levels of characters (letters, signs and symbols)? Do you need to type á? Or an ä? Can you remember that option-2 is the ™ sign? Can you remember which font has the hidden graphic you want to use (Geneva has the rabbit, for example)?

If you have the Key Caps desk accessory (DA) installed in the system file so that it appears under the Apple menu, you won't have to try to remember. And, since Key Caps is a DA, it's available in any program where the menu can be accessed. If you don't have Key Caps installed, use the Font/DA Mover to open the DA suitcase that came from Apple with your newest System Set and install it.

Key Caps can also be accessed via the Suitcase program (a third-party product) or Font/DA Juggler (another third-party product) but, occasionally, when Key Caps isn't actually installed into the system file, it doesn't recognize fonts loaded into the system file temporarily.

To use Key Caps, open your word processor (or other program) and choose Key Caps from the menu. Two things will happen; first the Key Caps window will be opened in front of the already open window. Second, a new menu will appear to the right of the last of the menu's already in the menu bar. If, like me, you use Thunder (or any other DA that adds a menu to the menu bar on a Mac with the original 9" screen), you may find yourself running out of space in the menu bar. If you do, use the close box in the Key Caps window to quit Key Caps, close the DA that added the extra menu and open Key Caps again. Under MultiFinder only the Key Caps menu shows up.

The Key Caps window (see figure 1) is a dynamic, interactive map of your keyboard. The exhibit shows the map of the Apple extended keyboard (standard keyboard for the Mac Plus and one of the options for the SE and II). If you have one of the other keyboards, or a non-Apple keyboard, the map in the window should match your keyboard. If it doesn't, contact your dealer or the manufacturer.

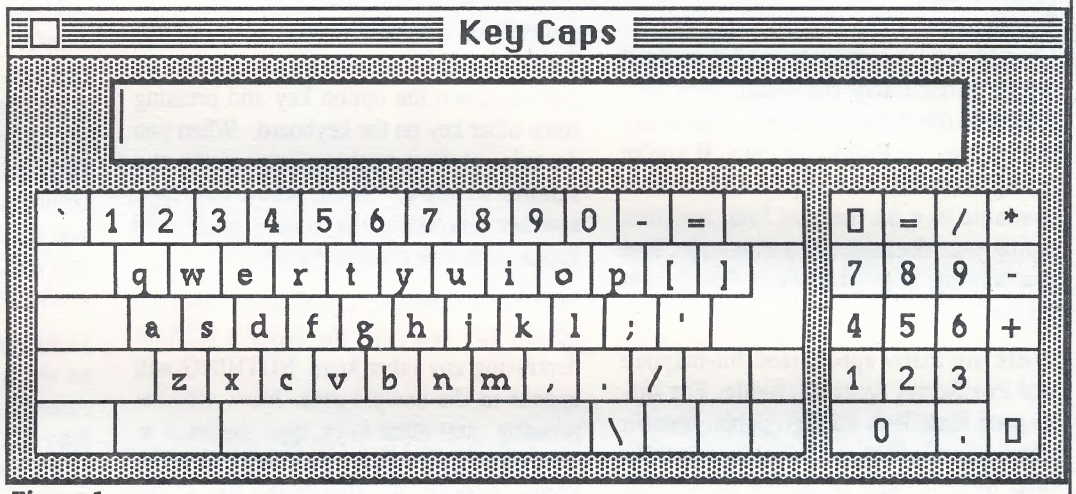


Figure 1

As soon as you select Key Caps from the menu, you will see the **first level** of characters available: the lower case letters. If you are using a davorak key layout that is properly installed and has the proper key layout CDEV with the newer systems, the Key Caps map should display it without any problems.

To change the font you are looking at, pull down the Key Caps menu and choose another. Figure 1 is based on using Palatino, used for this article. The default font (the font chosen automatically when you select Key Caps from the menu) is usually (but not always) Chicago.

Try it. Pull down the Key Caps menu, select another font (particularly a PostScript font or a picture font like Cairo) and watch what happens to the map; it changes as each font is displayed and shows the character associated with the key. If you can't find a font, it isn't installed into the system file that's in control of your Mac. If you are using a disk based system (no hard disk) and want to display a font that's installed in another system file, you will have to change to that system or use the Font/DA Mover to install it into this system.

To see the **second level** of characters available, press the shift key. As you do, the shift key on the map will be highlighted (become black) and the lower case characters will change to show their upper case equivalents. That's the dynamic portion of the Key Caps map. What you do on the keyboard is displayed on the keyboard map for you to see. You can also use the mouse to click on the keys in the window. Try typing the letter 'e' and then try clicking on the character using the mouse. An 'e' will appear in the sample

area at the top of the Key Caps window for each 'e' you type.

Now for the **third level**; let go of the shift key and hold down the option key and suddenly there are characters available that can't be found from a normal typewriter keyboard. (See Figure 2.)

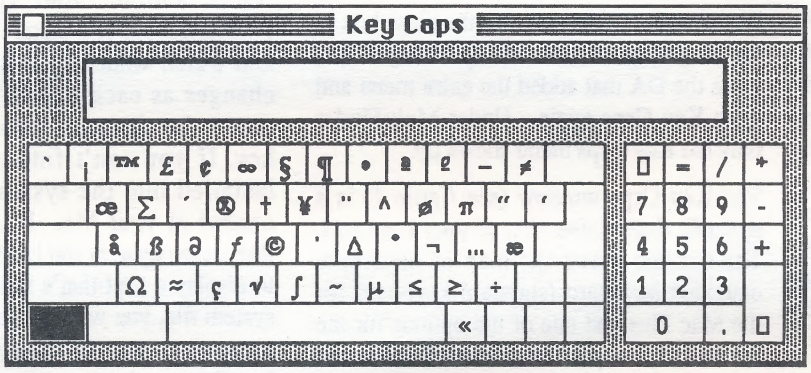


Figure 2

Some folks don't have the same number of optional characters; try choosing a PostScript or Laser font (Palatino, Times, Courier, etc.). Frequently the bit-mapped fonts, particularly the older ones like Chicago, don't have as many characters available as the PostScript fonts. If you're going to need characters that aren't available in a bit-mapped font, consider typing your document in a PostScript font and having it printed on a PostScript printer.

There are many specialized bit-mapped and PostScript fonts available. For bit-mapped fonts look through public domain offerings and check out the companies that offer them for sale (most companies that sell fonts advertise in the Mac magazines and will gladly send you information about their fonts). If you need specialized characters in a PostScript font, you're going to have to pay for it – there are very few PostScript fonts in the public domain. Again, check the magazine ads.

The **fourth level** of characters are found by holding down BOTH the option and shift keys at the same time, exposing yet more font choices. In the bit-mapped fonts available from Apple, many of the characters will be represented by an open square; these boxes can be typed and printed on the ImageWriter when you use bit-mapped fonts but they will not print on a PostScript printer, even when you can see them on screen.

The **fifth level** of characters are used to add accent (diacritical) marks to other characters. These, unfortunately, are not quickly or easily recognized from the keyboard. These characters are made by holding down the option key and pressing some other key on the keyboard. When you do this, at first nothing appears in the sample window. Then, when you type another character, the accent mark will appear with it as a single element.

For example, to type á, first, hold down the option key and type the letter e without depressing any other keys. NOTHING will appear in the sample area. Now, without pressing any other keys, type the letter a. You should now have an a with an acute accent over it: á. Here's the list of the option key combination that produce accents:

Option-`=` (grave accent)à
Option-e=´ (acute accent)á
Option-n=~ (tilde)ñ
Option-i=^ (circumflex)â
Option-u=¨ (umlaut)ä

These special accent marks are limited to those letters where they would logically be used; for example, you can't use the acute accent over the letter n. If you need the accent character by itself, hold down the option key and type the letter that produces the accent twice. For example, option-e option-e produces ´.

Normally you can't place an accent over an upper case letter using the above method. But most of the accented upper case letters are found in PostScript fonts, and some of the newer bit-mapped fonts, by holding down the option-shift at the same time.

Unfortunately, in fonts like Chicago the upper case accented characters simply don't exist.

Summary

If you're typing something that requires these special characters, check the font first to make sure they're available. If the characters you need aren't in the font you've chosen, you may have to find a font (either from a public domain library or by purchasing it from a software company) that contains the characters.

Using Key Caps while you're typing is simple. When you need a special character that you don't use often, choose Key Caps from the menu, select the same font you're using in the document from the Key Caps menu and search through the keyboard combinations until you find the character you need. If you don't find the character in that font, you may have to change the font you're using in the document.

Make note of the key combination you used to show the character in the map (for example, option-shift-k =) and close the Key Caps window. By using the key combination that you found using Key Caps, you can easily type the character you need. You can also cut and paste from the Key Caps window.

MUG NEWS SERVICE, 1989

An All-Canadian AUG

by Beatrice Beaubien

The Momentum is Gaining

NCMC is involved in a national initiative to bring together Apple and Macintosh users in Canada.

In mid-August I represented the NCMC in organizing and hosting the second meeting of the Canadian Apple Users Steering Group. The purpose of the Ottawa meeting was to identify which resources we wanted a Canadian group to offer. We came away with new ideas, new friendships, and specific goals for the new alliance. The next few paragraphs give my impressions of the proceedings on the 19th August.

Apple's Barton McKinley set us up in the Apple offices on Moodie Drive and provided us with Macs, a Kodak Datashow, and good coffee. Attending were delegates from Club Mac, Toronto; Le Club Macintosh de Montréal; Logic, Toronto; MAUSE, Oshawa; NCMC; Ottawa Apple II User Group; Powell River Apple Enthusiasts Club and Waterloo and Region Macintosh Users Group.

During the morning we discovered we agreed that

1) User Groups should communicate more amongst themselves.
2)the time had come for a national group.
3)optimism that a national user group could contribute to the improving User Group/Apple relationship.
4) Apple II and Macintosh groups should associate to form this national liaison.

Some other significant points that were mentioned:

- Better technical access to Apple would be appreciated by Macintosh and AppleII users.
- National SIGs could provide a powerful nationwide resource.
- There should be a Canadian electronic communications facility set up as soon as possible.

After speaking to Lois Densmore, Apple Canada User Group rep, there were tangible signs that the Canadian initiative was productive. Lois informed us that by the end of the year, delegates of user groups coast to coast in Canada will be linked through Apple's Network, AppleLink. In addition, recognition awards will be available for the national group to allocate to individuals that are nominated for going beyond the call of duty in the service of Apple users in Canada.

At the end of the day we had arranged to:

1) Begin a MacNET forum for all Canadian Apple users immediately.
2) Set out the operating guidelines (executive structure and constitution) in the next few weeks.
3) Host a Canadian Apple Users conference early next year.
4) Hold a competition for our logo this fall.

The minutes are now posted on the NCMC-TCS if you would like to read the proceedings yourself.

The consensus was that the meeting was extremely useful. However, during the course of our discussions we didn't find a name we could all spontaneously and unanimously rally behind. So if you can think of a candidate name for us (or if you have any other comments about these proceedings), send me a message on the NCMC voice phone or the TCS.

Beatrice Beaubien is the NCMC's Apple Liaison & SIG Coordinator

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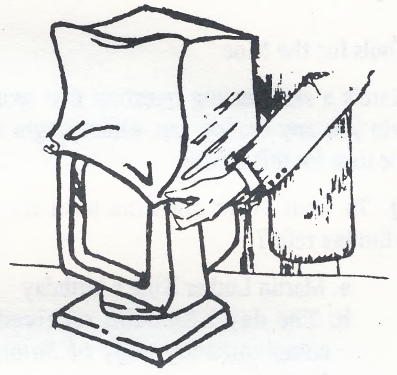

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Investing:the Stock Market

by Charles P. Whaley

Tools for the Mac

Here's a skill-testing question that won't win you any money, but which might set the tone for this article:

Q. To what event does the term **Black Monday** refer?

a. Martin Luther King's birthday
b. The day Khomaini received a complementary copy of *Satanic Verses*
c. The fourth Monday of each month when the NCMC meets
d. The stock market crash of October 19, 1987

If you answered anything but **d.** to the question above, this article may not be for you. If you're not serious enough to invest some of your hard-earned cash in the stock market, and to use your Mac to improve your performance therein, skip on to the next article. On the other hand, if you are an investor, want to be, or wonder why you should be, read on.

Why invest in stocks?

According to a 1986 survey conducted by the Toronto Stock Exchange, 18% of the Canadian adult population own stocks in publicly traded companies. Many (like me) saw thousands of dollars disappear from the value of their portfolios in October of 1987. Many pulled out of the stock market at that time (or shortly thereafter), vowing never to return. In fact a recent Business Week/Harris Poll found that 84% of individual small investors have not bought stocks within the past year.

9Nonetheless, a smallish number of investors (like me) stayed in the market, battered and bruised, but vowing to monitor our investments and the state of the economy more thoroughly so as never to take such a major loss again.

But why should people invest in stocks anyway? Especially when there are risks as extreme as the Crash of '87? The answer is very simple, but it is amazing how few people seem to know it.

The answer is simply that no other (conventional) form of investment performs as well in the long term as stocks. None! Consider some statistics published November 21, 1986 in *Market Logic*, a newsletter published by The Institute for Econometric Research (3471 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306). The article compared investments in common stocks, T-Bills and gold from 1871-1986. The results are striking, to say the least!

A $1 investment in New York Stock Exchange common stocks in 1871 would have grown to $6,743 by 1986 (adjusting for both dividends and inflation). More realistically, a $10,000 investment would have exploded to over $67 million, over and above what was lost to inflation. Now let's look at the competition.

A $1 investments in risk-free T-Bills (these consistently pay better interest than your bank account ever will) would have grown to $8 when adjusted for inflation over the same time period. In fact, between 1914 and 1986 there was *no real return* on T-Bills after inflation.

And, what about gold? Well $1 invested in gold bullion in 1871 was (as of 1986) worth about $1.60 (when adjusted for inflation and a modest .4% annual storage and insurance fee).

So, what'll it be... $1.60 (gold), $8 (T-Bills) or $6,743 (stocks) for each $1.00 invested. Even if you don't expect to live for a 100 years, I think the answer is obvious. Furthermore, crash of '87 aside, there is no reason to believe that anything has changed. In fact you skeptics who left the market may not realize it, but most American and Canadian stock market averages are already back to pre-Crash levels. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is up 273.6% in the past seven years in spite of the Crash (based on *Wall Street Week* statistics for August 13, 1982 to August 11, 1989).

Putting Your Mac to Work

Now that you're convinced that stocks are the place to be, why settle for typical stock market returns? Why not work at picking good stocks, monitoring your investments, getting out when the time is right, and managing your transactions to minimize commission costs and taxes.

It obviously takes more than owning a Mac to help you achieve these ends. You need some software. A spreadsheet package like Excel is an excellent start, and perhaps all you'll need. That assumes, of course, that you are conversant enough with Excel to put together some "whiz-bang" templates to analyze your stock data, or that you know someone who has such templates already and will share them with you. More on getting started with Excel later.

If Excel is not good enough for you, and you'd like something more specifically tailored to investing in stocks *per se*, read on. I'll be reviewing HyperInvestor from Nibble Mac magazine ($12.95) and CSL Stock Analyser from Chancery Software Ltd. ($349.00). I own a copy of each of these.

You may expect this to be an unfair comparison, and you're right. However, I think you'll find enough information below to decide whether you want to "test the water" with HyperInvestor as a novice to Mac-assisted investing or "jump in" to a full-blown package like CSL Stock Analyser. As you'll see shortly, there is

very little difference at a superficial level, but quite a substantial difference behind the screens.

Before getting down to comparing nuts and bolts, however, it is important to consider some of the general requirements of investing in the stock market.

Portfolio management

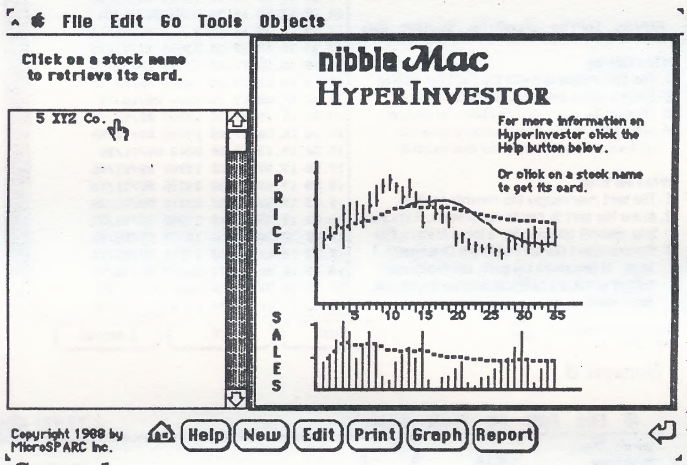
If you own as little as a few hundred shares of each of several stocks, you'll want to keep track of dividends, capital gains, transaction costs, and so on... if only for tax purposes. Furthermore, you might want to selectively allocate the proportion of your money that goes into preferred shares, common shares, money market instruments, etc. depending on the current economic outlook. This is what is called portfolio management, and you'll need at least a spreadsheet or hard-copy equivalent to keep these records.

Charting

Lots of investors like to look at charts of stock prices over time. You'll see some of these below. The general idea is to go with stocks in an uptrend or to try to determine whether a stock as fallen far enough that it is ready to turn up again. Generally, stock charts display vertical bars depicting the highest price, lowest price and closing price for each day, week or month included. Often there will also be a *moving average line* which tends to show the price trend through the wiggles-and-jiggles of day-to-day or week-to-week activity.

Fundamental analysis

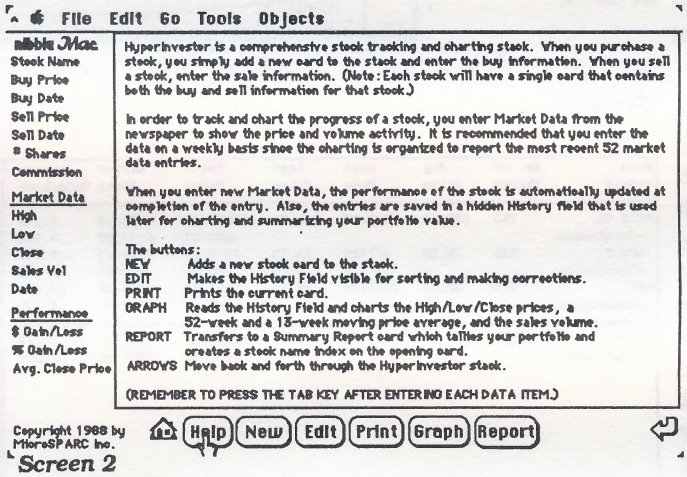
Fundamental analysis relies on looking at the characteristics of the companies involved and how well they are doing in the marketplace. The investor studies profits (typically earnings per share), dividends, price/earnings ratios, growth in profits over time, debt-to-equity ratios, cash flows, break-up values and so on. In this way shares in undervalued companies or high-growth companies can be purchased for above-average returns (or so the theory goes).


File Edit Go Tools Objects
Click on a stock name to retrieve its card.
5 XYZ Co.
nibble Mac
HyperInvestor
For more information on HyperInvestor click the Help button below.
Or click on a stock name to get its card.
PRICE
SALES
5 10 15 20 25 30 35
Copyright 1988 by MicroSPARC Inc.
Help New Edit Print Graph Report

Screen 1

Technical analysis

Technical analysis, on the other hand, consists of using various mathematical and graphical procedures to identify patterns in previous stock prices (over time) that might be indicative to future trends. Technical analysts assume that all of the fundamental information about companies is already factored into their prices, so it's only the price and trading volume action that counts.


File Edit Go Tools Objects
nibble Mac
Stock Name
Buy Price
Buy Date
Sell Price
Sell Date
Shares
Commission
Market Data
High
Low
Close
Sales Vol
Date
Performance
$ Gain/Loss
% Gain/Loss
Avg. Close Price
HyperInvestor is a comprehensive stock tracking and charting stack. When you purchase a stock, you simply add a new card to the stack and enter the buy information. When you sell a stock, enter the sale information. (Note: Each stock will have a single card that contains both the buy and sell information for that stock.)
In order to track and chart the progress of a stock, you enter Market Data from the newspaper to show the price and volume activity. It is recommended that you enter the data on a weekly basis since the charting is organized to report the most recent 52 market data entries.
When you enter new Market Data, the performance of the stock is automatically updated at completion of the entry. Also, the entries are saved in a hidden History field that is used later for charting and summarizing your portfolio value.
The buttons:
NEW Adds a new stock card to the stack.
EDIT Makes the History Field visible for sorting and making corrections.
PRINT Prints the current card.
GRAPH Reads the History Field and charts the High/Low/Close prices, a 52-week and a 13-week moving price average, and the sales volume.
REPORT Transfers to a Summary Report card which tallies your portfolio and creates a stock name index on the opening card.
ARROWS Move back and forth through the HyperInvestor stack.
(REMEMBER TO PRESS THE TAB KEY AFTER ENTERING EACH DATA ITEM.)
Copyright 1988 by MicroSPARC Inc.
Help New Edit Print Graph Report

Screen 2

Available software

Clearly, an active investor may want software to cope with all of these requirements. However, such software for the Mac is relatively new. As I mentioned earlier, I'll only be covering two packages here. They represent opposite extremes of the price-performance continuum — HyperInvestor and CSL Stock Analyser. This will give you an impression of the range of what is available, while leaving me the opportunity to review other packages later.

HyperInvestor

HyperInvestor is a phenomenon all on its own. Aside from providing some rudimentary stock tracking capabilities, this is one of the first HyperCard stacks I've seen with a graphing capability. I suppose this is something like demonstrating that you can actually do multiplication or square roots on an abacus. Nonetheless, I have respect for the brave soul who put in the effort to show that it could be done.

The penalty for the user, as you might have already guessed, is that charting your data is **painfully** slow! Don't count on using it for more than 10 stocks or for tracking these same stocks for more than 20 weeks or so (or 20 days if you're looking at daily data). The program will handle much more, but you may miss an entire market cycle while your Mac is figuring out the minimum and maximum axis values of your 13th chart.

Penalty aside, let's look at what you get for a trivial amount of money. I bought HyperInvestor from Nibble Mac for $12.95 + $2.50 postage & handling from Nibble Mac magazine (52 Domino Drive, Concord, Massachusetts 01742). An alternative is to type in the 5 pages of HyperTalk code

included in the magazine. (If that is your inclination, you're not likely to have enough free time to track investments!)

The first screen below is what you see when you access the HyperInvestor Stack. There's a lot to be said for the simplicity (from the user's point of view) of the approach taken. The "cover screen" shows you immediately what you can expect... price and volume charts (right field) for each of a list of securities (left field).

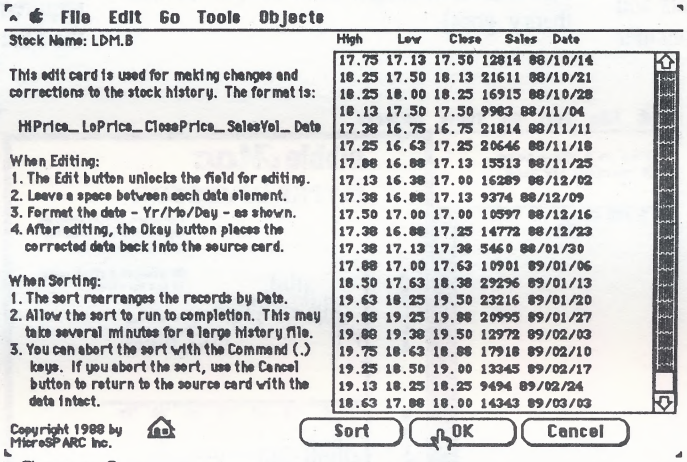
The buttons at the bottom are fairly self-explanatory, and the Help button brings up a card which describes most of what you will need to know (see Screen 2).

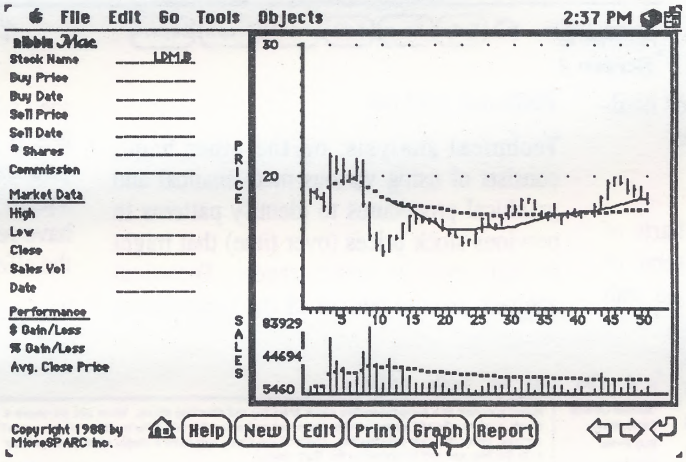
The stock data are entered manually (or by cut-and-paste from other applications) into standard, scrolling HyperCard fields. The application is optimized for weekly data. One thousand weekly entries will be stored, but only the most recent 52 will be displayed on the charts.

Screen 3 shows an example. Again, instructions are close at hand.

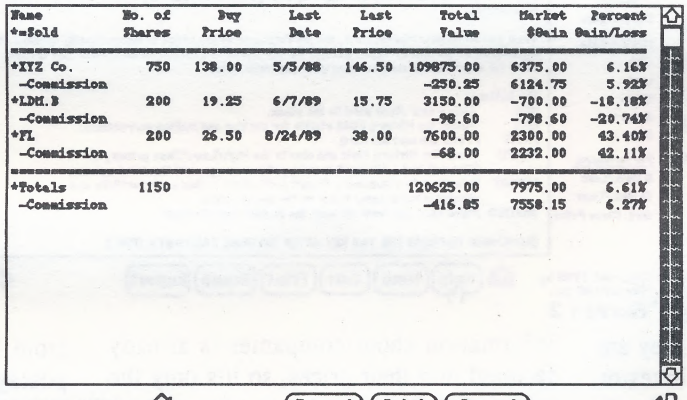
Screen 4 shows a typical chart, in this case for Laidlaw Class B common shares from March, 1988 to March, 1989. The upper graph shows the price action over time while the lower graph shows the trading volume over the same interval. Moving averages are included for both prive and volume. For prices, both 13 week and 52 week moving averages are displayed; for volume, a 52 week moving average. Technical analysts often believe that increasing trading volume will often precede a major price move (as near the beginning of the chart?).

Screen 5 shows the Portfolio Summary information displayed via the Report button. The information calculated and included here is fairly basic, but, nonetheless, all you really need for, say, the Schedule 3 table of your annual income tax return (i.e., the Summary of Dispositions of Capital Property).


File Edit Go Tools Objects
Stock Name: LDM.B
This edit card is used for making changes and corrections to the stock history. The format is:
HiPrice_LoPrice_ClosePrice_SalesVol_Date
When Editing:
1. The Edit button unlocks the field for editing.
2. Leave a space between each data element.
3. Format the date - Yr/Mo/Day - as shown.
4. After editing, the Okay button places the corrected data back into the source card.
When Sorting:
1. The sort rearranges the records by Date.
2. Allow the sort to run to completion. This may take several minutes for a large history file.
3. You can abort the sort with the Command (.) keys. If you abort the sort, use the Cancel button to return to the source card with the data intact.
High Low Close Sales Date
17.75 17.13 17.50 12814 88/10/14
18.25 17.50 18.13 21611 88/10/21
18.25 18.00 18.25 16915 88/10/28
18.13 17.50 17.50 9983 88/11/04
17.38 16.75 16.75 21814 88/11/11
17.25 16.63 17.25 20646 88/11/18
17.88 16.88 17.13 15513 88/11/25
17.13 16.38 17.00 16289 88/12/02
17.38 16.88 17.13 9374 88/12/09
17.50 17.00 17.00 10597 88/12/16
17.38 16.88 17.25 14772 88/12/23
17.38 17.13 17.38 5460 88/01/30
17.88 17.00 17.63 10901 89/01/06
18.50 17.63 18.38 29296 89/01/13
19.63 18.25 19.50 23216 89/01/20
19.88 19.25 19.88 20995 89/01/27
19.88 19.38 19.50 12972 89/02/03
19.75 18.63 18.88 17918 89/02/10
19.25 18.50 19.00 13345 89/02/17
19.13 18.25 18.25 9494 89/02/24
18.63 17.88 18.00 14343 89/03/03
Copyright 1988 by MicroSPARC Inc.
Sort
OK
Cancel
Screen 3



Screen 4



Screen5

That's it in a nutshell. All of the essentials for charting and portfolio management (record keeping) are there, as a bare-bones package. The only real penalties to be paid are in time (because it's a HyperCard stack!) and the likelihood of eventually inadvertently screwing up some of the underlying code (because it's a HyperCard stack!).

For someone who's never done this kind of thing before, however, what have you got to lose? It's basic. It's simple. It's effective. And, as I've said, it may be all you need.

Now, on to the major leagues...

CSL Stock Analyser

CSL Stock Analyser is marketed through InfoGlobe for $349. I managed to get it for $315 with a discount for members of the Canadian Shareholders Association.

Unfortunately, there is an odd and somewhat unsettling story behind the program. Apparently, it originated in Canada. The program was put together by Chancery Software Ltd. in Vancouver. Chancery no longer has anything to do with the program. They sold InfoGlobe (the Globe & Mail people) a version that is compatible with their stock quotes database (MarketScan), then sold out to Pro Plus Software, who now peddle a much enhanced version to American investors called Wall Street Investor. You can buy Wall Street Investor for $695 (US). In Canada, Wall Street Investor users will also have to subscribe to the I.P. Sharp stock quotation service. I.P. Sharp is, fortunately, available world-wide, which is a plus. However, in

Canada, at least, there is now a monthly minimum of $125 to subscribe. You'll need to be fairly active and have a large capital base to justify this overhead. InfoGlobe rates, on the other hand, are much more tolerable for the individual investor — with no current monthly minimum.

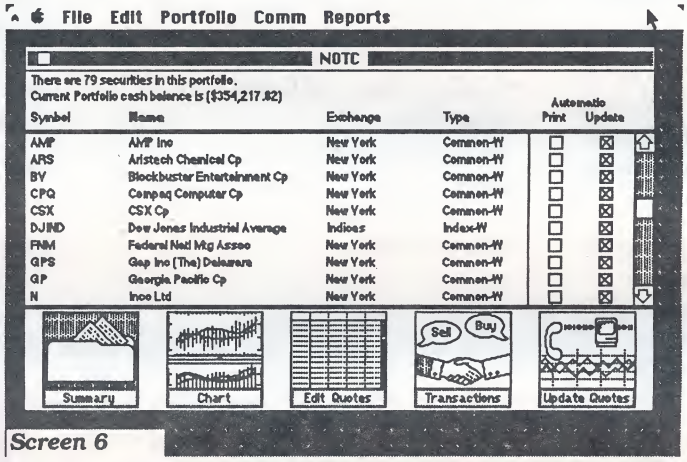
However, since InfoGlobe does not have Chancery or Pro Plus to back up the product they're selling, let the buyer beware! There are bugs in the program and routines (e.g., for stock options) that are fundamentally incomplete. I've beta-tested software that is in much better shape than this.

Presumably, Wall Street Investor does not have these faults and even if it does, Pro Plus is likely to have people working on fixes. The tradeoff, once again, is in the cost of Wall Street Investor plus I.P. Sharp monthly fees. When I last approached InfoGlobe, I was told that they had been talking to Pro Plus about a new version of CSL Stock Analyser for their Marketscan clientele, but had nothing resolved yet. Hopefully, those of us who do have bought the program will not be too badly stung (financially) for upgrades, since we've been "making do" with a package that is not completely what it's advertised to be.

All this aside, someone like me needs a package like CSL Stock Analyser and I'm getting by nicely with it in spite of its shortcomings. Let me tell you why.

Screen 6 shows the "front page" when launching CSL Stock Analyser from an existing file. (The opening screen of Wall Street Investor (version 2.0) is practically identical. Most of the enhancements offered by Wall Street Investor come with version 3.0).

The big "buttons" at the bottom give you a fairly good representation of what is available. For each of the securities in the list you can select a Summary of the key characteristics of the stock, a Chart of historical data stored in the program (if any), a list of the data that make up the chart (via Edit Quotes), or a list of previous Transactions for the same stock. Update Quotes activates a communications routine that will get you the numbers that you need from the InfoGlobe MarketScan database via your handy modem. It is so totally tailored to the MarketScan database that you don't really have to know anything about Communications software to download the data you want. You have your choice of weekly or daily historical quotes, including High, Low, Close and Volume. Most of the functions can also be activated from the menus above the screen.


File Edit Portfolio Comm Reports
NOTC
There are 79 securities in this portfolio.
Current Portfolio cash balance is ($354,217.82)
Symbol Name Exchange Type Automatic Print Update
AMP AMP Inc New York Common-W
ARS Aristech Chemical Cp New York Common-W
BV Blockbuster Entertainment Cp New York Common-W
CPQ Compaq Computer Cp New York Common-W
CSX CSX Cp New York Common-W
DJIND Dow Jones Industrial Average Indices Index-W
FNM Federal Natl Mtg Assoc New York Common-W
GPS Gap Inc (The) Delaware New York Common-W
GP Georgia Pacific Cp New York Common-W
N Inco Ltd New York Common-W
Summary
Chart
Edit Quotes
Sell
Buy
Transactions
Update Quotes
Screen 6

The CSL manual is quite readable even for someone new to packages of this kind. It carefully explains how various technical trend studies are computed and how results are normally interpreted.

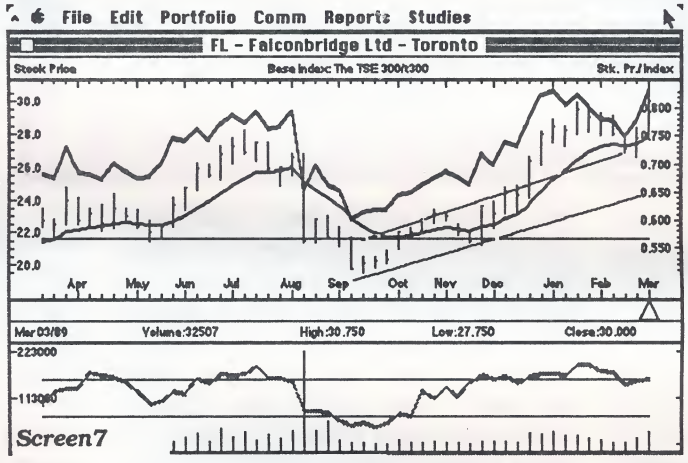
In the Trend Studies area you have a choice of plotting any or all of...

- Simple Moving Averages
- Weighted Moving Averages
- Exponential Moving Averages
- Relative Strength Index
- Advance/Decline Lines
- Performance to Index
- Moving Average on Performance to Index
- Momentum Rate of Change
- Average Daily Volume
- Overbought/Oversold Index
- On Balance Volume

For most of these you also have a choice of the time period for the calculations.

As you might expect, your charts can easily become so cluttered that you can't tell what you're looking at. In practice you would typically pick two or three measures to superimpose on your standard price and volume data.

In Screen 7, for example, you can see. a chart for Falconbridge shares (stock symbol, FL). Weekly data are shown from March, 1988 to March, 1989. Included are...



Screen7

- the price (high, low, close) and volume data
- a 10 week moving average (through the price bars)
- performance of the stock relative to the TSE300 (top line)
- a trading volume chart at the bottom
- a relative strength line (superimposed on the lower graph)

I've also added some "trend lines" joining high and low points on the right side of the screen. Many "chartists" (= technical analysts) believe that a break-out from a price channel like this signals a major move in the direction of the breakout.

The performance of Falconbridge relative to its moving average is quite good here, it is outperforming the TSE300 average in the latter half of the year shown, and its relative strength is excellent — all suggesting a good pick on technical grounds.

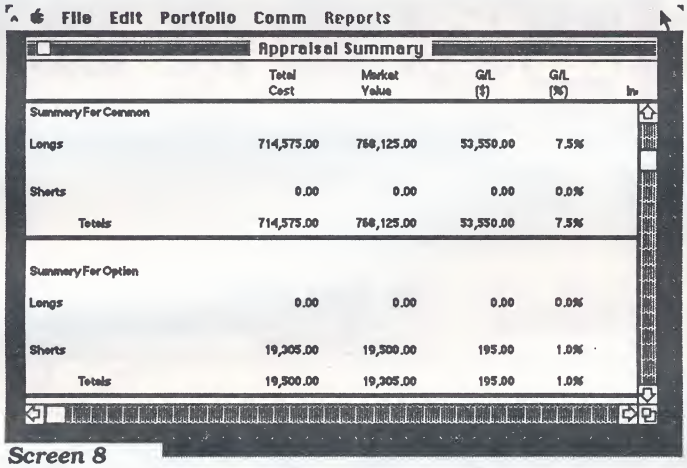
Incidentally, this chart was prepared early in April, 1989, just after the last entry on the chart. FL closed at $30.00. As of August 30, 1989 it is trading at $38.50 (28% higher in 5 months). I'll leave it to you to decide whether it was the technical indicators, the fundamental characteristics of the company, or the recent takeover battle that forecast this result!

The Portfolio Management section of the program is also more sophisticated than what HyperInvestor offers. In addition to tallying buy/sell orders and commissions, you can track and adjust for dividends, stock-splits, short-selling, interest payments and cash balances. When you buy additional shares of the same stock, the average purchase price over both transactions is automatically computed to simplify your gain/loss calculations later when you dispose of these assets.

Preferred shares, units, warrants,stock options, mutual funds and bonds can also be included. There are various adjustments and computations associated with the unique characteristics of each of these.

Finally, a Reports menu gives you a wide variety of table and chart options for summarizing your data on your screen or a page. Screen 8 provides an example of one of the simpler formats. Others include:

- List of Transactions
- Realized Gains and Losses
- Cash Flow
- Income Projection
- Appraisal Detail (for individual stocks)
- Historical Quotes
- Event Calendars



Screen 8

So, in summary, CSL Stock Analyser is quite powerful in both scope and utility. Nonetheless, I resent the fact that it doesn't have some of the newer features that its cousin, Wall Street Investor (version 3), has. I resent the fact that there are some annoying bugs and only partial implementations of some of the features it claims to have. I resent, more than anything else, the fact that I can't even cut-and-paste stock prices into the historical data tables, let alone import them from spreadsheets and text files. And, finally, I resent the lack of support from the program supplier, InfoGlobe. If they're serious enough to market such a package, they should also have an infrastructure to ensure bug fixes, enhancements and general technical support to their customer-base. Currently, they do not.

Having said that (and meant it!), I'm not sure I could do without CSL Stock Analyser when I consider the amount of effort I formerly put into charts and analyses using tedious manual methods.

Sooo, at the risk of leaving you with neither an unqualified endorsement nor an outright panning of CSL Stock Analyser, I hope I have provided you with enough information to make your own call.

Now, let's consider a more fundamental "do it yourself" approach.

Let's Not Forget Spreadsheets

If you are not ready to buy software specifically designed for stock market investing, or if the available software does not give you the flexibility you need, don't forget about using spreadsheet software. I personally use Microsoft Excel for a wide variety of analytical tasks beyond those included in CSL Stock Analyser or comparable packages.

So let's step back now and consider what you can do with Excel (or any other spreadsheet program). Whether you're using downloaded data via your favourite communications package, or entering the latest numbers manually from a daily or weekly newspaper, you can quickly start calculating moving averages and technical indicators in no time at all. If you're conversant enough with Excel to use the charting routines (and have enough time to customize the charts to your liking), you can probably match or even exceed the results you'd obtain with HyperInvestor or CSL Stock Analyser.

I won't get into how you'd accomplish all of this here, but I will show you how to accomplish a few simple procedures with moving averages and market timing oscillators.

Since I don't necessarily endorse the use of these well-known methods, please don't hold me responsible for your results. Mind you, if you are successful, I am inclined to accept financial expressions of gratitude!

Whether you're tracking one stock or many, or looking for patterns in a market index like the TSE300, trading or timing indicators are quite easy to program as extra columns in your spreadsheet next to those where you enter your daily or weekly data that you pick out of the newspaper.

Common examples include moving averages (normal or exponential), advance/decline lines or ratios, hi/lo indices or momentum indicators. As long as you have the appropriate formulas, you can compute the measures you want.

Here are a few practical examples of how you can get started. I'll limit my discussion to the state of the market as a whole, using numbers you can easily pull out of your daily copy of the Globe & Mail.

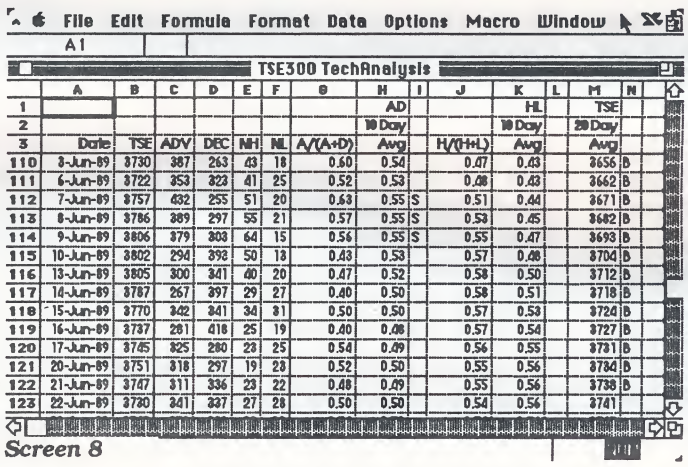
The most convenient format is to let the rows of your spreadsheet represent time (day-by-day or week-over-week) and the initial columns include the numbers you extract from your newspaper.

Your first column should probably include the date, the second column, the value of the TSE300 (to use a Canadian example), and perhaps a third column indicating the volume of shares traded on that date. After that you might include the number of advancing and declining issues traded that day, plus the number of new highs and new lows. With these numbers alone you can compute a variety of indicators that professional traders use regularly. Each indicator will simply be another column in your spreadsheet. Let's start with an Advance/Decline Index.

All you need to do is insert a formula in your next available column which divides the number of advancing stocks by the number of advancing stocks plus the number of declining stocks [A/(A+D)] — all from data in that same row. In your next column you should compute a 10 day moving average of these A/(A+D) numbers (simply AVERAGE the current reading and those for the previous nine days). If the averaged A/D index is greater than .55, you can likely expect a decline in stock prices over the near-term. Similarly, if the value drops below .45, you can expect a rally in stock prices soon. Such guidelines are clearly not fool-proof, but you'd be surprised how often they work as expected. Even if you're buying individual stocks, you might want to wait until the market as a whole is likely to advance before buying.

You can do something similar with New High/New Low data. This tends to be more appropriate to identifying the beginnings and ends of major long-term market moves. Take another column in your table and insert a formula dividing New Highs by (New Highs + New Lows). Again, add an additional column to keep a 10 day moving average of these numbers. If the High/Low Index exceeds .90 and begins to turn down, be cautious that the bull market may be coming to a close. If it is below .10 and begins to turn up, you might start buying in hope on catching some bargains before a Bull market rally begins.

Another approach is to compare the current value of the TSE300 with its intermediate or long-term moving average. Again, you just add another column or two to include formulas for the average of the current TSE300 value and the preceding n-1 readings. A 20 day moving average should give you a good idea of short-to-intermediate term trends, whereas a 100 day moving average will give you a better perspective on the longer term. Traders using a moving average strategy will typically buy when the daily (or weekly) value exceeds its moving average and sell when it drops below the moving average. A more conservative strategy that I would recommend is to buy when the market exceeds it's moving average and the moving average is already advancing day-to-day or week-over-week. There's not much point in chasing very small potential gains in a down-trending market. As for the choice of time horizon, it depends on how active you want to be. You can either try to capture many, smaller gains or wait out the minor moves in hope of longer-term returns.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1								AD			HL		TSE	
2								10 Day			10 Day		20 Day	
3	Date	TSE	ADV	DEC	NH	NL	A/(A+D)	Avg		H/(H+L)	Avg		Avg	
110	3-Jun-89	3730	387	263	43	18	0.60	0.54		0.47	0.43		3656	B
111	6-Jun-89	3722	353	323	41	25	0.52	0.53		0.08	0.43		3662	B
112	7-Jun-89	3757	432	255	51	20	0.63	0.55	S	0.51	0.44		3671	B
113	8-Jun-89	3786	389	297	55	21	0.57	0.55	S	0.53	0.45		3682	B
114	9-Jun-89	3806	379	303	64	15	0.56	0.55	S	0.55	0.47		3693	B
115	10-Jun-89	3802	294	393	50	18	0.43	0.53		0.57	0.48		3704	B
116	13-Jun-89	3805	300	341	40	20	0.47	0.52		0.58	0.50		3712	B
117	14-Jun-89	3787	267	397	29	27	0.40	0.50		0.58	0.51		3718	B
118	15-Jun-89	3770	342	341	34	31	0.50	0.50		0.57	0.53		3724	B
119	16-Jun-89	3737	281	418	25	19	0.40	0.48		0.57	0.54		3727	B
120	17-Jun-89	3765	325	280	23	25	0.54	0.49		0.56	0.55		3731	B
121	20-Jun-89	3751	318	297	19	28	0.52	0.50		0.55	0.56		3734	B
122	21-Jun-89	3747	311	336	23	22	0.48	0.49		0.55	0.56		3738	B
123	22-Jun-89	3780	341	337	27	28	0.50	0.50		0.54	0.56		3741	

Screen 8

Screen 9 captures most of what I've said in the last few paragraphs. With this foundation you have the beginnings of a market timing approach to investing on a shoe-string and a spreadsheet. With a little reading on technical analysis, you could easily add a few more indicators — again, simply as additional columns in your table. You might even experiment with some indicators of your own — perhaps combining some of the more standard ones. It can easily become an addictive exercise!

Before leaving this section, however, I should caution you that for individual stocks additional measures are called for, and these are outside of the scope of this article. Nonetheless, many can be computed in a standard spreadsheet already being used to track stocks you own or are interested in owning.

Additional information & reading

That's as far as this article goes. It's

continued on page 21

Bill Buxton

"The standard of design of computer systems right now is outrageous. Consumers are getting what they deserve if they continue to buy this stuff"

With those words Bill Buxton, an expert on human-computer interaction, blasted today's computer manufacturers.

Computers, he urged, should reflect the human body and the way people think.

Buxton, on leave for the Computer Systems Research Institute at the University of Toronto, was one of a number of guest speakers at Congress 89, hosted by the Canadian Information Processing Society in Edmonton May 29 to June 2.

People are buying computers, he argued, according to the Henry Ford philosophy: "You can have any input device as long as it's a mouse."

"The industry is dominated by unimaginative, narrow-minded conservative copy cats," Buxton charged. "Right now we're getting products that are as good as they were (in terms of human-computer interaction) four years ago."

Technological advances in human-computer interfaces should be leapfrogging, instead of taking a"me too" approach.

Buxton, also a musician, pointed to the way musical instruments work together with the human body, Musicians are aware of the importance of the way their bodies interact with their instruments — a concert cellist will often spend the same just on his bow as it would cost to buy a Sun workstation.

He asked the audience to help suggest what alien archaeologists would conclude about the human anatomy if they unearthed a ComputerLand store 1000 years from now.

Among the suggestions which illustrated his point were that people have 101 fingers and a tentacle; binary fingers that only move up and down, with no pressure sensing; one eye, which if not monochrome, only sees primary saturated colours; and ears which only understand "ping", not speech.

He compared an old Etch-A-Sketch toy with an imitator, which added a joystick. After asking the audience which it found better, he explained that each was better depending on what you wanted to draw. The same diversity of needs applies to computers.

As examples of how computers could work more in tune with the human body, he suggested:

- better audio cues: we don't change car gears with the tachometer, but rather by listening to the transmission.
- measuring the intensity with which the mouse buttons are depressed rather than just if they are up or down.
- a track ball for the left hand while the mouse works with the right, allowing people to do two things at once, such as positioning and scaling a drawing.

"The majority of computers were built to be used in the missionary position," Buxton said adding that a face-to-face approach is not necessarily the way he works.

Using a video tape demonstration, he showed how humans use a variety of cues and gestures to communicate more effectively.

"If you are aware that a computer is there, it is a failure of design," Buxton said.

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MiniCad+ V2.0

by: Ross J Slade

3-D for the Price of Two

Some good things just keep getting better. MiniCad+ V2.0 from Diehl Graphsoft is a case in point. As an Industrial Designer who cut his Apple teeth on a Mac Plus in '86, I have used a wide assortment of drawing programs. By drawings I mean design drawings, technical drawings, accurately drawn to scale in a manner which is presentable to a client of non-technical background but usable by professionals to construct or manufacture an item. They have to be accurate, they have to be detailed but they have to be artistic.

I lasted one week with MacDraw and followed it with MacDraft which lasted about one year. I would probably still be using MacDraft (or its big cousin Dreams, both from IDD) but I added a LaserWriter Plus to my growing pile of hardware and the inaccuracy of MacDraft was instantly apparent. I had to find something else. VersaCad for Mac had just been released, a very large sum for what was basically a beta edition. I tried MGM Station and felt it wandered too far from the Macintosh interface. I used PowerDraw and was interested but I settled for MiniCad V3. It not only did the two dimensional work but attempted to address the third dimension. (The 3-D module, which was separate, had an incomprehensible interface and the documentation left a lot to be desired. Still it was fun to play with.)

Version 3 was followed by 4, MiniCad+ and just a month ago by MiniCad+V 2.0. The conversion to MiniCad+ entailed a rework of the 3-D side totally integrating it with the 2-D drawing. The 2-D side had numerous features added, including integral Spreadsheet and Macro functions. The manual was totally rewritten. The interface has just gotten better through all the versions, allowing intuitive use after a very short usage but masking a wealth of drawing power that can be tapped when the program is mastered.

Enough about background, what can it do? When you boot up from any machine larger than a 512KE and at least two 800K disk drives (hard disk recommended) you are presented with a window, menu bar and two floating palettes, one of 16 obvious tools, the other, 10 constraints. This is your view into a world measuring 493 miles on each of three axis with an accuracy of 1/64" That is a lot of space to keep track of but it does so, with seeming ease.

Normally you work in 2-D. You pick a drawing size depending on your printer or plotter. I use that previously mentioned LaserWriter Plus, but you can tile up to forty two sheets. You pick your units, be it architectural, engineering, metric or imperial and a degree of accuracy, up to nine decimal points or seconds of angle. Then you chose a convenient drawing and reference grid and start your drawing. Any, or all of the above can be altered at any time but it does provide a starting point.

Pick a line tool and draw a line, click and drag. A readout at the bottom of the screen keeps you posted on length, angle, x and y and anything else appropriate. But wait, you don't have to click and drag. You can click the start point and click the end point if you feel more comfortable doing that. (We know what sort of machine you migrated from. There is also a full screen cursor for you) You can also input any line, arc or polygon using the keyboard. Should you want a double line rather than single the line icon 'pops up' to the right providing a choice of double line or leader line. Want to change tools, click on the appropriate one or gradually learn the keyboard equivalents. The 16 obvious tools, in fact, mask some 32 tools. The tools used in conjunction with the constraints make a truly powerful combination. Constraints include parallel, right angle, tangent, snap to points, distance, sides, intersections, grid and square/circle (as opposed to rectangle/oval)

Great, so you can draw all these things. Then what? Well you can fill them with a choice of 72 fills, half of which you can edit. You can cross hatch an area. You can trim a line, fillet a line, join two lines or combinations of all those. Typical situation is two parallel lines at right angles to another set (a wall butting into another). MiniCad+ will intersect and trim the junction. You can convert a polygon to lines or convert a series of adjacent lines into a polygon. You can reshape a polygon by adding or deleting apex. You can add, clip or intersect overlapping surfaces. If you want to simply duplicate an item, 'command D' works as you would expect. But should you hold down the option key and type the same, a whole new world opens. Any number of copies in a line, circle or rows & columns with each resized and or rotated. I can think of a few other programs I use where that would be useful.

The required features of grouping, multiple levels and symbols are fully supported. Oh, I forgot zooming. That is why I bought MacDraft over MacDraw (I know MacDraw now has it). You can zoom in or out virtually as much as you want. You chose how big or small you want the image, you are not limited to x-times. Of course this too is supported on the keyboard. If you don't like your lines getting thicker as you get closer this can be disabled and all lines remain 1 pixel wide (like Illustrator).

That brings us to lines. You can alter a wide choice of line weight, line styles and dashed lines. The end markers of dimensioned lines can be one of two different arrows, dots, single or double slashes. Lines can have the fill patterns assigned to them. Dimensions? What do you want? Chained, diagonal and angle with our without witness lines. With dimensions go text. Your choice of system installed fonts in your size and style, offset

whatever distance from the appropriate line and either angled with the line or horizontal/vertical relative to the drawing. As is obvious from that statement, text can be angled.

Colour. On non colour ROM machines (ie old SE or Plus) eight colours can be assigned but not seen. Separate colours can be assigned to foreground and background of fill and pen. They are chosen with pop-up palettes on colour machines. You can also pickup and transfer the colours of a highlighted object.

The spreadsheet integrated into the drawing environment is a very powerful tool. Wrapped up in the group and symbol idea is the ability to assign names and classes to objects in you drawing. Other attributes can be assigned to these or calculated from these (ie. area) and tied into the spreadsheet. With some forethought you can generate a complete and costed 'bill of materials' or keep track of the area of a specific item (ie. all 3/4" plywood)

The 3-D aspect is like icing on the cake. Any item that you draw can be extruded or rotated to create a solid. The created object can be rotated and your viewpoint of that object or group of objects can be altered. For example a floor plan can be extruded and rotated to produce a isometric or perspective of the proposed space. Symbols can be three dimensional and located relative to a plane. You have control over the location of a single light source and the camera and viewpoint locations for perspective rendering. The completed rendering returns to a two dimensional format but all surfaces are present allowing some to be stripped away for clarification. The fill and colour of any plane can be altered. The wire frame object can then be rotated to another viewpoint for further rendering.

The macros are little programs that can be written to enhance the basic package. Chances are you will use ones written by others that do such things as draw bi-fold doors , windows or do particular drawing actions.

I have not covered everything, but you get the idea. A very good program with excellent value for dollar. What don't I like or what can be improved? Text is limited to one size, format etc. per text block. Not very Mac like, but other programs have the same failing. An ability to draw and trim a tangent between two arcs or circles is required. It can be fudged now, but it is just that. I wish for some indicator of the possible rendering time for a perspective and the ability to cancel if it will take too long. MiniCad+ races through isometrics but anything other than a simple perspective can take a long time.

If you are not interested in 3-D, 'BluePrint' for $200.00 US less is available with all the other features. The list price for MiniCad+ V2.0 is $695.00 US from Deihl Graphsoft 8370 Court Ave., Suite 202, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Ross J Slade is the president of Ross J Slade Industrial Design Inc. which uses Macintosh hardware and software to meet the design needs of his clients. He has been known to train other designers in the use of design related software.

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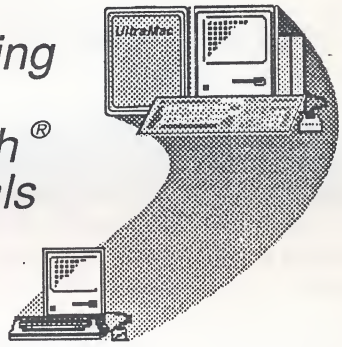

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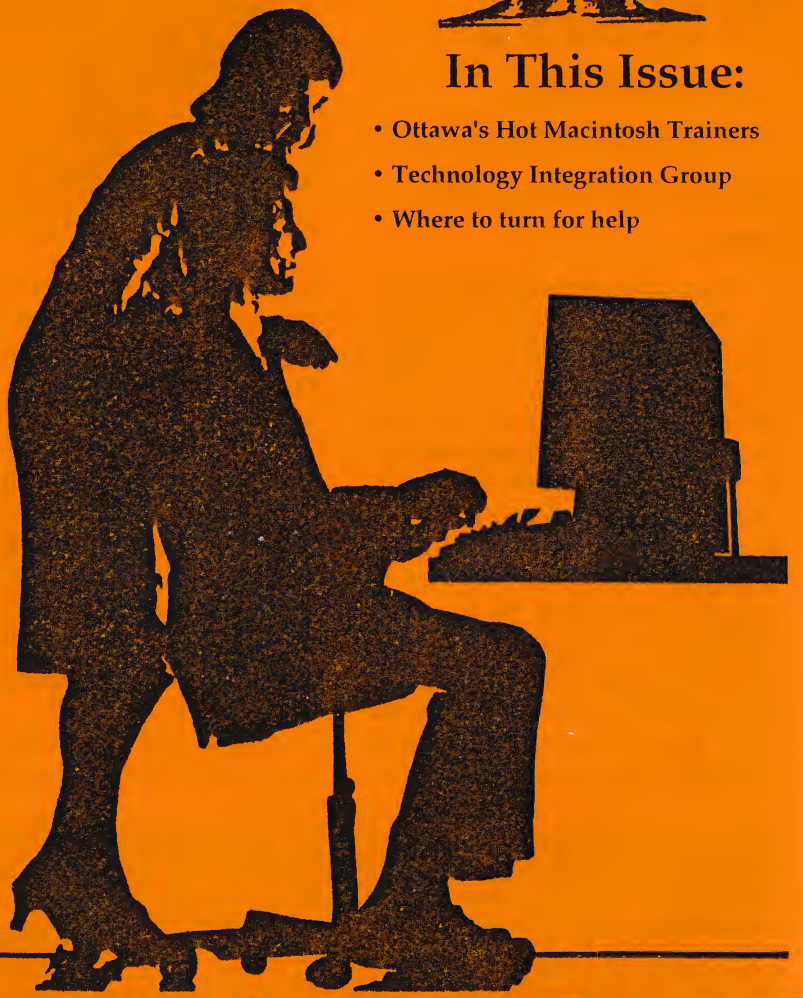
MacInterest

In This Issue:

- Ottawa's Hot Macintosh Trainers
- Technology Integration Group
- Where to turn for help



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Ottawa's Hot Macintosh Trainers

In the fast moving computer marketplace, training is moving even faster...

For those who shy away from manuals, the Macintosh was a godsend. However, regardless of your experience or natural aptitude, sooner or later you'll decide to take a course on your favorite programme, if for nothing else, than to learn the shortcuts through the more tedious tasks involved with any program.

If you've already taken a brush up course for MicroSoft Word, Aldus Pagemaker or another popular program, you probably already know Ed Hong. Ed has been involved in computers for over a decade, and has focused most of his efforts in making the transition to technology, effortless and easy. Ed handles training at Lasercomp as part of our commitment to supporting our customers after the sale.

Joining Ed is our new Macintosh trainer: Brenda Peters. Brenda comes to LaserComp Solutions from a national high-end graphics reseller, where she spent the last two years setting up the Ottawa branch's MacIntosh division. You might have met her since she was responsible for everything from consulting and selling, to training and support.

Contact Lasercomp today, and experience first-hand the dynamos of the diskette.

Upcoming Training Seminars:

Oct 2 - Hypercard	Oct 16 - Pagemaker
Oct 4 - Excel	Oct 19 - Xpress
Oct 5 - MS Word	

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION GROUP

Remember the original 128K Mac? Although a technological breakthrough for 1984, by today's standards, and with today's software it seems grossly underpowered. Five years ago, MacDraw, MacWrite, MacPaint may have been the basis for the revolution but today people want much more from their Mac software.

They want the power of InterLeaf Publisher and the sophistication of AutoCAD. To run these new applications requires 68030 processors running at 25 MHz, multi-megs of RAM and monstrous hard disks. The people want their Macs connected to each other, to other microcomputers and to mnis and mainframes using everything from EtherNet, Token-Ring, AppleTalk, Coax, T1 or high speed modems.

In other words, the computer for the rest of us has finally become the computer for all of us. But there is a price to be paid for all this new found sophistication and that is COMPLEXITY.

Well, from the company that brought you salespeople who carry TORX screwdrivers and crackers comes the TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION GROUP (TIG). LaserComp's committment to technical excellence is fullfilled by this group of individuals dedicated to pushing the limits of MacIntosh capabilities.

If you think it can be done on a Macintosh, but you have not succeeded in finding anyone to give you the answers you need, call for the TIG at LaserComp Solutions (745-2288). We can't promise that a solution can be found to all your technology integration problems, but we do promise to exhaust all the possibilities with you.

Membership Update

by Bam Liem

Places, Dealers and MUGs.

It's early fall, people are back from their holidays, kids are back in school, and it's time once again for me, your Membership Coordinator, to bore you with a ... Membership Update!

Since I already explained what types of membership we have in the NCMC, how many of each type there are, and how much money we get from membership fees in the last update, I thought it would be fun to look at which cities our members actually live in. I will also provide you with a list of all the Authorized Apple Dealers (AADs) in the National Capital area and a list of all the Macintosh User Groups (MUGs) in Canada ... so you know who to contact in case you have moved to another city or province.

Places...

You'll probably be surprised ... or not surprised ... to know that the NCMC have members living in four provinces in Canada, namely British Columbia, Newfoundland, Ontario ... of course, and Quebec. There are two members living in BC, one in Newfoundland, 3201 in Ontario ... surprise surprise, and 21 in Quebec.

What cities or towns do our members live in? Am I glad you asked that question. Aren't you glad you asked that question? Of course you are! OK, here is a list of all the cities and towns that our members live in.

As expected, most of the members lives in Ottawa (170 members), Nepean (51 members), Gloucester (27 members), and Kanata (26 members). The rest are scattered over all of the above cities and towns.

Prov	Cities/Towns	Cities/Towns	Cities/Towns	
BC	Richmond	Vancouver		
NF	Grand Falls			
ON	Almonte	Carleton Place	Carp	Casselman
	CornwallCumberland		Deep River	Dunrobin
	Fitzroy Harbour		Gloucester	Hamilton Kanata
	Kinburn	London	Lyn	Manotick
	Merrickville		Metcalfe	Navan Nepean
	Orleans	Osgoode	Ottawa	Richmond
	Smith Falls		South Mountain	Stittsville Vanier
	Wendover		Whitby	
PQ	Aylmer	Chelsea	Dollard Des Ormeaux	Gatineau
	Lennoxville		Wakefield	Wilson's Corner

Dealers...

As a direct result of the Apple Canada MUG Support Group, the NCMC have received a list of all the AADs and MUGs in Canada. In an attempt to provide up-to-date information from Apple to you, below is a condensed version of that list containing only AADs within the National Capital area. The MUGs will follow next.

This list is sorted alphabetically by the Dealer name.

Dealer Name	Contact	Address	Phone
Allan Crawford Associates	Linda McNeil	2625 Queensview Dr.,Ottawa,ON,K2B 8K2	596-9300
Compucentre	Craig Tremblay	#154-2121 Carling Ave., Ottawa, ON, K2A 1H2	729-0448
Compucentre	Glenn Collins	#235 Rideau St., Ottawa, ON, K1N 9J7	230-3672
Compucentre	Glenn Collins	151 O'Connor St., 1st Fl., Ottawa, ON, K1P 2L8	230-0386
Computer Connection Inc.	Joan Button	#101-301 Moodie Dr., Nepean, ON, K2H 9C4	820-3700
ComputerLand	Mark Hillaby	171 Slater St., Ottawa, ON, K1P 5H7	233-8413
ComputerLand	Jamie Melamed	80 University St., Ottawa, ON, K1N 9A6	235-5114
ComputerLand	Tim Bush	114 Pr. du Portage, Hull, PQ, J8X 2K1	777-7799
Crownteck Business Centre	Bob Ziola	234 Laurier Ave. W., Ottawa, ON, K1P 6K6	230-1996
J-R Business Equipment Ltd.	Keith Ritskes	444 Hazeldean Rd., Kanata, ON, K2I 1V2	836-1003
LaserComp Solutions	Store Manager	#109-1220 Old Innes Rd., Ottawa, ON, K1B 3V3	745-2288
McCutcheon Graphics Inc.	John Albert	2160 Thurston Dr., Ottawa, ON, K1G 4V4	738-2929
Micro Contact Inc.	Yves Robert	815 Boul. de la Carriere, Hull, PQ, J8Y 6Y4	778-2788
Ordinateurs 2000 Inc.	Robert Drouin	146 Pr. du Portage, Hull, PQ, J8X 3X5	777-3615
Up & Running Systems Ltd.	Ian Stoddart	333 River Rd, 1st Fl., Vanier, ON, K1L 8B9	748-6050
Up & Running Systems Ltd.	Ian Stoddart	1531 Merivale Rd., Nepean, ON, K2G 3J3	727-6050

Before you ask, ... the answer is **NO**, the NCMC **DO NOT** have any agreements with all these dealers for discounts, bulk purchases, or anything of the sort. However, it probably wouldn't hurt to ask them if they have any discounts for members of the NCMC when you're shopping in their stores.

The main reason for this is that we need somebody to coordinate this activity and so far, no one has volunteered their time and effort to do so. So, ... if you are interested to coordinate this worthwhile activity, please do not hesitate to contact one of the NCMC executives.

MUGs...

Unbelievable as it may seem, there are 66 MUGs with which the NCMC are exchanging newsletters (the *NCMC Bulletin*). Sixty-two are Apple certified MUGs in Canada, five are MUGs in the U.S.A. (including *BMUG*), and even one in the United Kingdom. Well, ... actually MUG is not entirely accurate. Some of these groups are Apple II groups, some of them are home computer groups, but all of them have Apple computers as one of the main topics on their agendas.

Without further ado, below is a list of all MUGs in Canada, the U.S.A., and the U.K.. This list is sorted by Country, Province and MUG name.

MUG Name	Contact	Address	City/	Prov/	Pstl Cd	Phone
Alberta						
Calgary MUG Society (C-Mug)	Alain Horchower	P.O. Box 665, Station "J"	Calgary	AL	T2A 4X8	403-426-3100
Edmonton Apple Group Learnin Experience	John Craig	P.O. Box 899, Sub P.O. #11	Edmonton	AL	T6E 2E0	403-461-5614
Fort Mac Users Group	Dave Casselman	Fort McMurray		AL	T9H 3A8	403-791-3005
M.O.U.S.E.	Ron Manke	P.O. Box 899, Sub P.O. #11	Edmonton	AL	T6G 2E0	403-433-2234
The Calgary Apple Corps	Renzo Costa	P.O. Box 8, Station "T"	Calgary	AL	T2H 2G7	403-251-0525
British Columbia						
Apple BC Computer Society	Elaine McAndrew	P.O. Box 80569	Burnaby	BC	V5H 3X9	604-688-2842
Comox Valley Apple Users Group		612 Pritchard Road	Comox	BC	V9N 6Z1	604-338-1143
Kitimat Apple Users	Wilf Butters	11 Nadina Street	Kitimat	BC	V8C 2A3	604-632-6111
Mainland MUG		#18542-72 Avenue	Surrey	BC	V3S 4P1	604-574-0841
Powell River Apple Enthusiasts Club	Brian Symonds	4637 Willingdon Avenue	Powell River	BC	V8A 2N1	604-485-9123
University of Victoria MUG	Paul Ramaniuk	University of Victoria	Victoria	BC	V8W 2Y2	604-721-7088
Victoria Macintosh Users Group	C.R. Iamasi	P.O. Box 5397, Station "B"	Victoria	BC	V8R 6S4	604-652-3588
Victoria MUG	Alison Gunn	P.O. Box 7075, Station "D"	Victoria	BC	V9B 4Z2	604-387-2853
Manitoba						
About Macintosh ...A User Group...	Barry Mallin	393 Ash Street	Winnipeg	MN	R3N 0P8	204-475-8445
Atomic Apple Users Group	Grant Delany	P.O. Box 249	Pinawa	MN	R0E 1L0	204-753-2663
Winnipeg Apple User Group	John Gowran	P.O. Box 1798	Winnipeg	MN	R3C 3R1	204-257-7397
New Brunswick						
Central New Brunswick MUG	Bill Hall	P.O. Box 3694, Station "B"	Fredericton	NB	E3A 5L7	506-453-2259
Newfoundland						
Newfoundland MUG		4 Nash Crescent	Mount Pearl	NF	A1N 3G6	709-368-3528
Nova Scotia						
Antigonish MUG	John Corbit	P.O. Box 1835	Antigonish	NS	B2G 2M5	902-867-2183
MUG of Nova Scotia	Peter Gergely	P.O. Box 3181, South Stn	Halifax	NS	B3J 3H5	902-463-4321
Nova Scotia Apple II User Group	Daniel MacKay	3247 Union Street	Halifax	NS	B3K 5H2	902-425-4802
Ontario						
Apple User Group	H.B.E. Brash	CFPO 5056, Box 1219	Belleville	ON	K0K 3R0	
Astronic Apples Users Club	Duke Kovacic	1453 Highbush Trail	Pickering	ON	L1V 1N6	416-839-7779
Canadian Midi Users Group	Eric Baragar	P.O. Box 873	Belleville	ON	K8N 5B5	1-392-6296
Chalk River MUG	Hall Tracey	Chalk River Neclear Labs	Chalk River	ON	K0J 1J0	1-584-3311
Club Mac	Ron Finnigan	P.O. Box 34, Station "A"	Toronto	ON	M5W 1A2	416-598-2623
Durham Region Apple Users Group	Arie Spiering	3 Farrow Crescent	Ajax	ON	L1S 4W9	416-427-8204
H.A.C.K.	Stephen Crofts	P.O. Box 486, Station "A"	Hamilton	ON	L8N 3H8	416-575-1623

Hamilton Mac User Group	Mary Henderson	875 Main Street	Hamilton	ON	L8S 4P9	416-529-0088
International Apple Users	Charles Clayton	8 Bullocks Corner	St. Catherines	ON	L2N 6W8	416-935-4269
K-W Apple User Group	Peter Wong	#24-324 Regina Street	Waterloo	ON	N2J 3B7	519-746-0055
K-W MUG	James Gingerich	376 Peel Street	New Hamburg	ON	N0B 2G0	519-662-2627
Kingston MUG	Roger Healey	186 Lakeshore Boulevard	Kingston	ON	K7M 7G4	1-542-8914(i)
LOGIC	Jim Low	P.O. Box 696, Station "B"	Willowdale	ON	M2K 2P9	416-881-8120
London Apple Corps	Ken Cossoy	#103-1555 Glenora Drive	London	ON	N5X 1V7	519-672-0924
Macforum	Jaeannette Hanna	170 Frederick Street	Toronto	ON	M5A 4J1	416-699-0885
Macintosh User East	John Field	493 Reynold Street	Whitby	ON	L1N 6H4	416-644-3809
Ontario Hydro MUG	Fred Caprilli	63 Murray Street M3D10	Toronto	ON	M5G 1X6	416-592-9075
Ottawa Home Computing Club	Pierre Castricum	P.O. Box 4164, Station "C"	Ottawa	ON	K1Y 4P3	830-6984
Ottawa Valley MUG	Julie Van Vliet	P.O. Box 69, Lot 22, Concession 15	Quadeville	ON	K0J 2G0	1-758-2513
Sarnia MUG	Jim Coniglo	P.O. Box 272	Sarnia	ON	N7S 2M6	519-542-3762
SIG for the Macintosh	Kim Solar	P.O. Box 399, Station "E"	Toronto	ON	M6H 4E3	416-534-7205
The Abacus Club	Grant Ross	25 Trelawne Avenue	Slt Ste Marie	ON	P6B 2M6	705-949-5980
The Ottawa Apple II Users Group	John Jackson	P.O. Box 2516, Station "D"	Ottawa	ON	K1P 5W6	230-7368
Thunder MUG	Bill Merchel	#3-1312 Needing Avenue	Thunder Bay	ON	P7E 3L7	807-577-6172
University of Guelph MUG	Michael LeBlanc	University of Guelph	Guelph	ON	N1G 2W1	519-824-4120
Waterloo Regional Apple Matrix	David Geddy	P.O. Box 222	Waterloo	ON	N2J 3Z9	519-746-4013
Waterloo Regional MUG	Richard Crispin	University of Waterloo	Waterloo	ON	N2L 3G1	519-885-1211
York University MUG	Jim Streb	York U., 4700 Keel Street	North York	ON	M3J 1P3	416-736-5257
Quebec						
Club Apple de Rimouski	Bruno St.-Pierre	C.P. 484	Rimouski	PQ	J5L 7C5	418-735-5428
Club Informatique de Longueuil	Huguette Tessier	P.O. Box 421, Station "A"	Longueuil	PQ	J4G 1S4	514-870-5583
Club Mac de Quebec		122 Blvd. Kennedy	Levis	PQ	G6V 6C9	418-835-1444
Club Macintosh de Quebec	Luc Villeneuve	P.O. Box 9094	Ste. Foy	PQ	G1V 4A8	418-529-4129
Le Club Macintosh de Montreal	Emery Deli	P.O. Box 1438, Desjardins Station	Montréal	PQ	H5B 1H3	
Le Groupe Apple St. Hyacinthe	Ronald Leroux	765 Rue Brunette Est	St.-Hyacinthe	PQ	J2T 2C6	514-773-2947
Montréal Apple Core	Robert McPherson	37 Parkside Street	Montréal West	PQ	H4X 1E7	514-631-5000
Montreal Computer Society	Guy Brodeur	3743 Notre-Dame West	Montreal	PQ	H4C 1P8	514-934-1245
Saskachewan						
MUG of Regina (MUGORS)	Dwight G. Mercer	35 Hudson Drive	Regina	SA	S4S 2W1	306-777-7758
Regina Apple II Group Inc. (RAIIGI)	Ben Checkowy	P.O. Box 424	Regina	SA	S4P 2Z5	306-777-2372
Saskatoon Apple Users Cooperative Endeavor	Laurie Bader	P.O. Box 480, Sub P.O. #6	Saskatoon	SA	S7N 0W0	306-966-4657
California						
A32	David Brandt	P.O. Box 634	Santa Clara	CA	95052	408-263-0398
BMUG	Carolyn Sagami	1442A Walnut Street #62	Berkeley	CA	94709	415-849-9114
North Coast Mac Users	Marc P. Mott	503 Marylyn Circle	Petaluma	CA	94952	
Michigan						
Mac-In-Awe MUG	Grace A. Dow	Memorial Library,1710 W. St. Andrews, Midland		MI	48640	517-631-1229
Oregon						
Portland MUG	Neil Wolf	P.O. Box 8895	Portland	OR	97207	
United Kingdom						
London MUG	Maureen de Saxe	23 Northway	London	UK	NW116PB	

If you know of any other MUGs that you think the NCMC should be exchanging newsletters with, please let me know so that I can include their name and address in our database.

Finally...

A membership update isn't complete without an update and a little scattering of statistics on the NCMC membership. As of August 24th, 1989, there 483 members of the NCMC. This amounts to approximately $10,000.00 in membership fees so far. In case you're wondering where all this money has gone to, don't hesitate to ask our new Treasurer, Mr. Bill Hooper. He's the guy who wins all those wonderful gifts at MacWorld.

Since I wasn't to busy during the summer (Membership Coordinator's idle hands are dangerous things), I decided to ask FileMaker 4.0 (the database package I use to maintain the club's membership list) to calculate how long each of our members have been members of the NCMC. To my surprise, I found that seven of our existing members have been members of the NCMC since the start of the club (February 6th, 1985), or 55 months, that's 4.5 years. These people are (in alphabetical order), *John and Scotty Adams, W. Gentleman, Bob and Mary Lou Kingham, Carl McCoomb, Bruce McLellan, Ted and Sue Roseman,* and *R. Young*. I would like to thank each and every one of these people for their continuing support of the club.

continued on page 21

Communications Toolbox Revealed

by Michael Fisher

Consistency comes to communications

The Macintosh Communications Toolbox, announced at the Worldwide Developers' Conference last month, promises to bring the same benefits of device independence and software support to communications that the Macintosh Toolbox brought to graphics and user interface, five years ago.

The Communications Toolbox, a new part of the Macintosh Toolbox, brings increased coherence to the Macintosh communications environment. Its benefits will extend to end users as well as software programmers and hardware developers. With the Communications Toolbox:

• End users will find a consistent user interface across all communications applications;

• Software programmers will have ready-to-use tools for implementing communications services, providing both a consistent look and more reliable operation;

• Hardware developers can produce new communications devices, such as internal modems or serial cards, and, by implementing the device drivers in accordance with the Toolbox, ensure that they will function with existing software that also conforms to the Toolbox, and

• Developers can create communications tools which support various communications services. These tools can be added to the system software and accessed from all applications.

The Toolbox insulates the application developer from the hardware manufacturer. Neither producer needs to know the full details of the other's product. The products will be compatible as long as both use the Communications Toolbox and comply with its guidelines.

The Communications Toolbox also enables programmers without communications expertise to add a communications facility to an application. As Apple software designer Byron Han points out, "All you need to do is call the appropriate Communications Toolbox routines and use the supplied tools. All the low-level aspects of communications are handled for you."

One of the most exciting features of the Communications Toolbox is its extensibility. Communications tools that support different communications protocols, file transfer protocols, or terminal emulations can be easily written and added to the Macintosh system software.

Prospects and Basics. Here are some of the developments Apple expects to result from the introduction of the Communications Toolbox:

• New or enhanced communications programs with consistent features and additional functions such as improved terminal emulation;

• The addition of appropriate communications functions to applications that have previously lacked this capability;

• Communications cards that work with all Communications Toolbox applications; and

• Additional communications tools from third-party developers.

The Communications Toolbox is easy for users to install using the Installer application provided with the Macintosh system software. Communications tools are installed or removed by dragging a file into or out of a folder on the Desktop. The Toolbox will be a standard part of the system, beginning with System 7.0.

As a developer, you need to license the use of the Communications Toolbox to ship with your products. (Contact Apple Software Licensing at (408) 974-4667 or via AppleLink at SW.LICENSE for more information.) The minimum system configuration for running the Toolbox is a Macintosh Plus with 1 megabyte of memory and system 6.0.2 or later.

The Communications Toolbox consists of managers and tools. There are three main managers: the Connection Manager, the Terminal Manager, and the File Transfer Manager. In addition, the Communications Resource Manager and the Communications Toolbox Utilities provide communications support. Each manager has associated tools that work with it

Connection Manager. The Connection Manager provides an application-level interface to connection tools that permit your application to establish, configure, and maintain a data connection.

The connection handled by the Connection Manager has two ends — it connects two processes. The data that flows over the connection consists of a stream of bytes. The data that flows through the connection is transmitted in a stream rather than in a transactional basis. This is analagous to ADSP (connection based) as opposed to ATP (transaction based) in AppleTalk. It is important to remember that the use of the word "connection" does not imply that any flow-control, error-correction, or packetizing is used.

Each connection can have up to three different, concurrent channels of communication: data, attention, and control.

All communication is handled by means of a connection record. You can create multiple connection records within an application. Various communications are kept separate because each is handled by a separate record. So, if multiple modems or serial ports are attached to your Macintosh, you can conduct simultaneous telecommunications sessions.

The Connection Manager contains routines for creating and disposing of a connection

re-cord, opening and closing a connection, and reading and writing data on the connection. You can also define custom menu items as part of the connection, handle menu selections, activate/de-activate events, and resume/suspend events.

There is a standard dialog for selecting and configuring a connection tool. You can also create customized configuration dialogs, using special routines that support custom dialogs for selecting and configuring the connection tools.

Finally, the Connection Manager has an interface to scripting languages— both telecommunications scripts and translations from non- English scripts. The details of the scripting language are the responsibility of the application.

In its first release, the Connection Manager will come with a serial-port tool and a Hayes-compatible modem tool. A LAT tool (for DEC networks) is planned. These tools provide a software bridge between a program and a serial port or modem respectively. Each display is a scrollable list of installed communications cards and provides a consistent method of setting serial-communications parameters.

Terminal Manager. The Terminal Manager provides a standardized set of routines that let applications access terminal-emulation services provided by terminal tools. Terminal tools perform all of the actions expected of a terminal emulator, including data-stream interpretation, keyboard mapping, and screen updating.

The terminal tools do not maintain the incoming or outgoing data streams. Your application can use the Connection Manager for these purposes. The Terminal Manager supports text, block-mode, and graphics terminals.

Information about a given terminal emulation is maintained in a terminal record. The Terminal Manager creates a separate record each time a terminal emulation is created, thus allowing concurrent emulation of multiple terminals.

Applications can use the Terminal Manager to perform standard terminal emulations in a window; applications can also use the Terminal Manager to maintain an off-screen terminal emulation which can be used to create intelligent front-ends to host applications.

The Terminal Manager provides a standard method for selecting and configuring a terminal tool, an interface for applications to bring up custom configuration dialogs, an interface between terminal tools and any scripting language, and a standard interface to localized scripting languages.

The first release of the Communications Toolbox will include three terminal tools: the Telepype (TTY) Terminal Tool, the VT100 Terminal Tool, and the VT320 Terminal Tool.

As with the Connection Manager, you can create a customized terminal configuration, using the special customization routines in The Communications Toolbox. These routines provide specialized dialogs for selecting and configuring terminal tools and procedures and a record structure for creating customized terminal emulation. The Terminal Manager also interfaces with the same scripting languages as the Connection Manager.

File Transfer Manager. The File Transfer Manager provides applications with an interface to the file-transfer tools. These tools permit your application to carry out a file transfer, using various protocols. Your application passes the data to the File Transfer Manager, which handles the process from that point.

Information for the file transfer is stored in a data structure known as the file-transfer record. Separate records are maintained for each transfer, permitting independent transfers within the same application. The information maintained by the file-transfer record includes the direction of the transfer (to or from the host) and the default volume for receipt of files.

The File Transfer Manager assists your application in a file transfer, offering routines to: Create and dispose of a file-transfer record, select a file-transfer tool, start and stop a file transfer, handle events that occur during file transfer, create a customized file-transfer configuration, and, work with file-scripting languages. Currently XModem and ASCII Text File Transfer Tools are available.

Communications Resource Manager. Developers can use the Communications Resource Manager to list attribute and status information for communications devices. You can also use it to share communications resources within a single application or among several applications running under MultiFinder. And developers can use the Communications Resource Manager to register communications cards (e.g. modem cards, serial port cards) allowing these cards to be accessed by any application that uses the Communications Toolbox. The old two-port limit is a thing of the past..

Communications Toolbox Utilities. No Macintosh Toolbox worthy of the name comes without a set of utilities, and the Communications Toolbox is no exception. Communications Toolbox utilities include aids to dialog-list manipulation and AppleTalk®-network lookup.

Conclusion. The Communications Toolbox is a comprehensive and powerful communications architecture for Macintosh. It extends the reach of users and developers alike by tightly integrating support for communications into the Macintosh system software. It is an important enabling technology in support of multi-vendor connectivity.

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The Word is 4

By Roger Stafeckis

"Good things come to him that waits." The old sayings have great wisdom in them. They tend to generalize a lot, but that only makes them more timely, so they last through the ages. Some things do that.

In the computer age, Word has been with us from the early days, growing as the industry grew. The latest version, 4.0, is finally shipping after a long delay. Has it been worth the wait? Read on and find out.

Word has always been a powerful program. The trick was to control and manipulate that power. Word 4 gives the user this ability through customization of the menus. Any one of the numerous commands available in the program can now be placed on the menu for easy access. This is accomplished through the Commands dialog box which lists all of the available commands and even provides parameters to extend certain commands. Command placement and menu order are selected here through a simple interface. Command specific Help is also provided and makes for fast and to the point explanation of the command's function, as opposed to scrolling around in a main help section.

Speaking of dialog boxes, Word has slimmed down in time for the '90s. The new dialog boxes sport a streamlined look and feel. They've been simplified, regrouped and are less intimidating for the casual user. The power is still there (more, actually) for those that need it, only it's been more efficiently designed and has a less cluttered look. The main reason for the streamlining has been the addition of dropdown lists that show available options. Also, links to related dialog boxes are provided for easy switching between dialogs. Here are some of the additions and changes.

A new Position dialog allows for a type of fixed positioning that "locks" a text block or graphic into a certain spot relative to page, margins or column. Text is automatically wrapped around the positioned object. Any change to the main text merely re-wraps around the object. The Show ¶ command is quite useful in this context by showing the boundaries of text, tables and graphic objects for a visual aid in positioning.

A new Document dialog has been pulled out of Page Set-Up options. Anything relating to the document itself is now here. It also has a new option that adjusts for work that is to be bound. The Page Set-Up dialog now only contains options that directly affect printing.

Expanded preferences

The Preference dialog also sports new options. Custom paper sizes are now supported (mailing labels, etc.). Picture Placeholders allow for faster scrolling in complex documents by replacing graphics by an empty picture box. The Smart Quotes option replaces the standard keyboard quotations with real quotation marks like those used in the big time. Background repagination allows for automatic repagination as you make changes in the document. (This can be quite strange until you get used to it). Even the Paragraph dialog has been reworked. New sub-dialogs exist for the manipulation of tabs and adding borders around paragraphs.

All these options can get quite involved and readjusting them to suit different types of documents could be tedious at best. Word provides a solution by allowing a different settings file (menus, options, etc.) to be saved for each type of document you work with. These individual configurations change the main program to accommodate for different ways of working (e.g. financial reports, letter writing, resumes, etc.). An interesting working example of this is the supplied settings files for MacWrite and WriteNow. Previous users of these programs can upgrade to Word while keeping the same working environment they are used to (i.e. menus, document defaults,etc.).

A new view

It is not only what you look at but how you look at it that has changed. The new Page View provides a WYSIWYG image of your document. This is where you see how all the formatting elements such as page boundaries, positioned items and footnotes all fit together. They are displayed just as they will be printed on the page. This is not only a static view of the document either. All the features are still active so you can fine tune the document using this new perspective.

Outlining has been enhanced by the addition of Heading and Body Text icons. Paragraphs can now be manipulated by dragging these icons to the appropriate level and position in the document.

Hot spots added

Active components — "Hot Spots — have been added to give a dynamic page. Double-clicking on these spots activate associated functions. Some examples are:

- Ruler tabs bring up the Tabs dialog box.
- Page number panel activates the Go To command
- Style name panel opens the Define Styles dialog.

And on the document itself:

- Footnote reference mark opens the Footnote window.
- Paragraph & Section marks bring up their associated dialogs.

The ruler itself has some component changes. The Style selection box, normally buried inside the Styles Dialog, has been added to the ruler as a dropdown menu. A Scale icon has also been added for altering column and page widths.

Tables can now be added and edited for setting up columnar material such as charts, forms, spreadsheets, newsletters and scripts. Existing text can easily be changed into a table and tabled information can be reworked into text.

Here are some other odds and ends. Additional glossary items have been added. Automatic date and time entries can now be used in a document to indicate time of writing and printing. Index and table of content coding can now be inserted into selected text automatically. Document statistics such as characters, words, lines and paragraphs can now be analyzed by the new Word Count feature. Go To and Go Back commands are great for zipping around a large document.

Hats off for the support that's included in this package. Working examples that illustrate how to make use of all these new features is provided. They open up the power of the program to the novice user (styles sheets, settings for labels, working with drop caps, etc.). They also provide the experienced user with a template to help get along with the business at hand, writing.

It's also nice to see a working environment provided in the way of add-ons. Word Finder thesaurus is a welcome addition for a struggling writer. SuperPaint 1.0 has been provided to take care of graphics. And the macro program AutoMacIII (somewhere between MacroMaker and QuicKeys in functionality) makes life a lot easier for repetitive sequences of action.

Support for other programs has some new twists too. You can now open MacPaint files directly into a new window. Links to Excel 1.5 and SuperPaint 1.0 can be established so that material from these programs can be easily updated as the original changes.

Solid but no utopia

There is no utopia, even in word processors, so I have a few reservations about this latest version. For one thing, in outlining mode, styles can't be defined. This may be important for the changing of the strange formatting of the default outline heading. The spell checker is also unavailable here, where much of the text may be written depending on a writer's working style.

The main dropdown menus are hesitant, probably due to the menu customization process. It's a minor point, but it is noticeable when you're flying around the program trying to get things done. Page redraw can also be slow in a complex file with graphics (this is where the Picture Placeholders come in).

Looking at the program as a whole, Word has matured into a very solid product. Even with all of it's new features, it hasn't become an unwieldly monster (à la Fullwrite Professional) so it's still viable for small systems and casual users. With all the inclusion of such facilities as Word Count, Tables and Drop Caps, Microsoft shows its commitment to the professional writer. Word's additional page layout qualities define new areas for a writing tool. Overall support for the program is excellent and is one of the main reasons this is a great package.

It was well worth the wait.

Membership update... continued from page 17

Thank you very very much!

Well, now that the statistics is out of the way, it's time for the bad news ... or the good news ... depending on how you look at it. I would like to inform you that I will not be continuing as your Membership Coordinator in 1990. I have been with this club for approximately 4 years in one position or another and I believe that it's time for some new people and ideas. As such, I would like to ask you members for a volunteer to carry on the Membership Coordinator's activities. If you are interested, please let me know and I'll fill you in on the ins and outs of NCMC membership.

I hope I can do another update before my term is up. So, I'll see you next time.

From the Prez... continued from page 2

workings of a 1980's and 1990's organization like Apple Computer, one that is often difficult to categorize or explain. The book is worth the price for the footnotes alone, and certainly provides explanations to those of us who are used to the generally accepted management practices of the 1960's and 1970's. Guy will be speaking to us as part of a tour we arranged with Club Mac in Toronto, and we look forward to hearing him at the Special Meeting, Earl of March High School Auditorium, Wednesday October 11th, 7:30 PM.

Also, Beatrice Beaubien and Cliff Crabe have been participating in the Steering Committee to launch a National Association of Canadian Apple User Groups. Beatrice (Biti), chaired this steering committee and brought new energy and insight into organizing a national volunteer group who will integrate over 60 other volunteer Apple User Groups across Canada. The NCMC guidelines in this effort is to only participate in such national activities if they provide an improved service to our members. Keeping this in mind is very difficult to do in the early stages, but we feel that a national dialog has benefits for many of our members, and that is why we have been following this course. Many thanks to Biti for following through on a very difficult task.

Looking to the future, we will be having NCMC Executive Elections shortly for the 1990 term. We will be discussing these elections in the next General Meeting.

I hope you enjoy the WingZ demo in September. Make sure you attend the Kawasaki talk in October to hear an Macintosh legend talk about the *Macintosh Way*, 4th Dimension v2.0, and the way of the future for our favourite computer. We need your participation in these meetings with international speakers so please ensure that you attend.

—LeRoy Lees

Hardware: MacII to Video

Here is the scoop about making your standard Apple video card output a signal to your TV or VCR. The info below is taken from Apple's 32-bit QuickDraw Demo disk. Apple specifically states that they DO NOT support this stuff, that is, don't bug 'em with any questions about it.

I have personally built the cable for about $20 in parts. My opinion: the quality is no better than "medium quality," and I have decided it is not good enough for my use (I'm going to invest in one of the NTSC video cards for the Mac II). It is only B&W, no color. The flicker filter indeed removes flicker, but it shrinks the image to about 1/4 full screen. Actually, I feel that the normal flicker in the full screen image is not too bad. Due to the way TVs crop the NTSC image, I was unable to see my menu bar, although it continued to operate fine.

The software (two disks worth) has been sent to all Apple Certified Developers and is available on AppleLink. It makes for a fun project, and may be useful if you want to annotate home videos. But if you only seek to insert still titles, you would be better off using your camcorder to shoot hard copy from a LaserWriter, and editing those segments into your film.

Everything that follows was written by Apple:

This video utility allows developers and video-knowledgeable users to obtain medium quality video output at extremely low cost. This is not intended for the unsophisticated user. If you don't know how to make a video cable, this software is not for you!

Pluses:

- Supports 1 to 8 bits per pixel RS170 video output
- This type of video can be video-taped
- Flicker filter improves image quality in 1 bit per pixel mode.

Minuses:

- Requires a special cable.
- Flicker filter slows the computer down 20% to 40%.
- Flicker filter uses about 48K of RAM
- Not 100% broadcast-quality RS170 signal.

Hardware Required:

- A Macintosh II-class Macintosh computer.
- An Apple-brand 640 x 480 x 4 or 8 bit Macintosh II Video Card.
- A special cable (you make) to connect the video card to your video equipment.

Software Required:

- System 6.0.3 (or higher).
- The Monitors 4.0 Control Panel device (available with 32-Bit QuickDraw).
- The General file accompanying 32-Bit QuickDraw
- 32-Bit QuickDraw

About the Cable:

You will need a special cable to connect a RS170-compatible monitor (or VCR) to your Macintosh. One side must plug into the Apple Macintosh II video card. It must have a 15-pin male DB15 connector. The other side must plug into your video equipment. Pin 5 of the DB15 connector contains the RS170-compatible monochrome video signal. Pin 6 is the shielding ground for this signal. Typically you would connect pin 5 to the central wire of your video cable, and connect pin 6 to the shielding braid.

WARNING: it is possible to damage your video equipment and/or your Macintosh II by using an improperly constructed cable. If you are not familiar with video equipment, you should not try to make a special cable!

MacClassified:

SIMMs For Sale!

80ns SIMMs for all Macintoshes. $180.00/meg. Will install for additional fee. Call Phil at 237-6168.

Investing: The Stock Market... continued from page 17

intended primarily to get you interested in investing in stocks and using your Mac to maximize your profits. Clearly, there is a lot more out there to read.

You can get more information on HyperInvestor in Nibble Mac Magazine, Volume 3, Number 6, 1988. Information on CSL Stock Analyser is available from InfoGlobe (444 Front St. W., Toronto, Ontario M5V 2S9).

A book that I found useful before buying any software was *The Computerized Investor* by Terry Jeffers (Computerized Investor Institute, Pleasanton, California, 1987). Both Mac and IBM PC software are reviewed, with pronounced biases toward those packages favoured (and presumably marketed) by that Institute. The book does a fairly good job of discussing the various aspects of computerized investing and how to shop for software.

Once you are beyond portfolio management and charting stock prices over time, you may want to read some more about technical analysis.

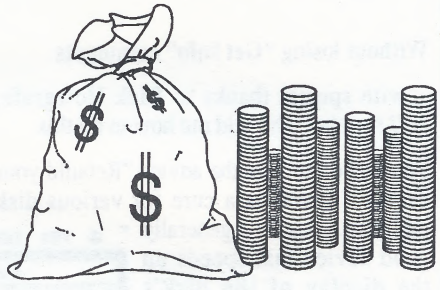
A key advantage of technical analysis (whether you believe in the principles or not) is that it requires you to look at your stocks, and their relative performance to other stocks, on an ongoing basis. This discipline alone makes technical analysis pay off.

One book which covers an extensive variety of technical (and other) indicators is *Stock Market Logic* by Norman G. Fosback (Institute for Econometric Research, 3471

North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306). Another is *Timing the Market: How to Profit in Bull and Bear Markets with Technical Analysis* by Weiss Research (Probus Publishing, Chicago, Illinois).

At a more general level, if you want to learn more about investments of all kinds, you'll find that your bookstore carries many choices, mainly of American origin. One of the best references from the U.S., in my view, is the *Dun & Bradstreet Guide to Your Investments 1989* by Nancy Dunnan (Harper & Row Publishers, New York) which is updated and published annually. I buy the latest version every 2-3 years.

There is little I would recommend for the Canadian market. Possibly one of the best introductions to Canadian investing that I can think of is Richard Worzel's *Making Your Money Grow* (Financial Post/Macmillan, 70 Bond St., Toronto, Ontario, 1980). It may be out of print.

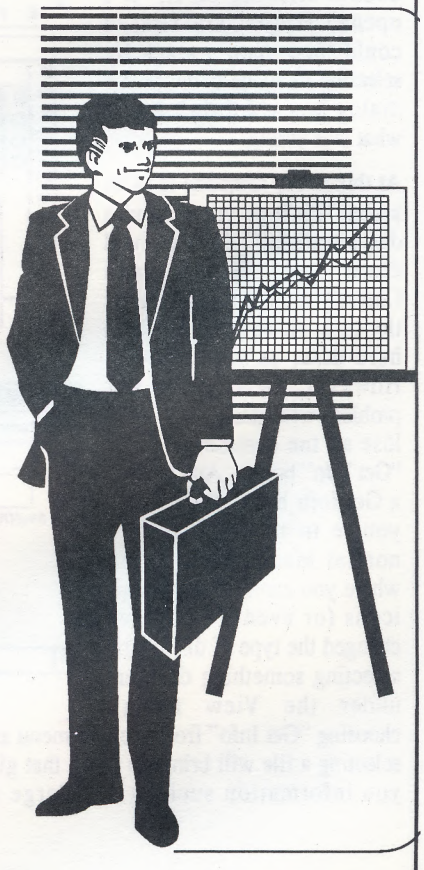


In conclusion

Now you're on your own. But before you go on to check out the next article, look back at the **Why Invest in Stocks** section again. Remember that even a *random* selection of stocks will make you much richer in the long term than stuffing your money in your mattress, buying gold, buying T-Bills or CSBs, or putting your money in the bank.

If you're going to invest your money, buy stocks. If you want to invest in stocks wisely, use your Mac to track your performance. If you are determined to exceed *average* performance in stocks, buy some software or develop your own with Excel (or another spreadsheet program). This way you can develop to identify stocks which will turn out to be winners.

I'd conclude by saying "Good Luck" but that would defeat the entire point of this article. Investing in stocks is <u>not</u> a gamble. You can do very well by picking a few promising choices and holding them for the long-term. And you can do even better by using your Mac to help you pick even better stocks and monitor how well you are doing.



Rebuilding the Desktop

by Verna Webb

Without losing "Get Info" comments

...with special thanks to Rick Holzgrafe, A32 member who told me how to do this.

You will often hear the advice "Rebuild your desktop" given as a cure for various disk problems. And it's generally good advice that speeds up the display of the disk's contents and corrects other problems. In my own case, the problem I was having at the time I learned this trick was that I had just replaced version 1.1 of HyperCard with version 1.2 and discovered I could no longer open a stack directly by double-clicking on it. If I opened HyperCard first, I could then open a stack by selecting its name from the SF dialog box – I didn't know what was wrong.

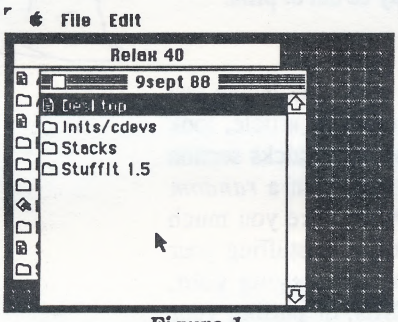


Figure 1

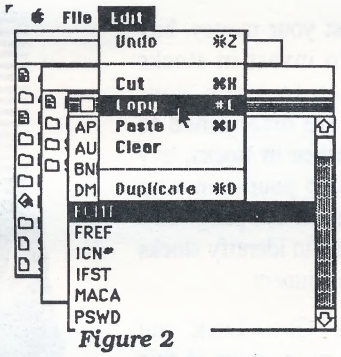


Figure 2

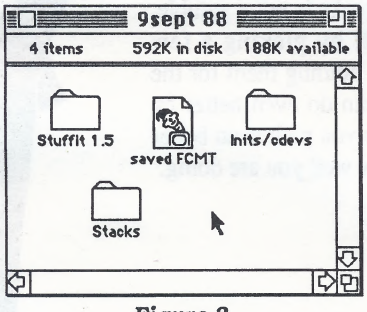


Figure 3

At this point, someone may be asking "How do you rebuild a disk's desktop?" Answer: hold down the Option and Command keys as you insert the disk or, in the case of a hard disk, as you boot up. However, there is one big problem with doing this - you lose all the comments in the "Get Info" boxes. And what is a Get Info box? Well, when you're in the Finder on a normal Macintosh desktop where you can see the various icons (or even if you have changed the type of display by selecting something different under the View menu), choosing "Get Info" from the File menu after selecting a file will bring up a box that gives you information such as how large the selected file is and when it was created and modified. There's also a box in which information about that file can be entered. Commercial programs usually have version number and copyright data there. (Some commercial programs have info entered in such a way that it does not disappear during a desktop rebuild.) Disks in the A32 Library have information similar to that on the printed catalog page or DOM sheet, but may have more detail or directions for using the program.

The point is, if you have information in your "Get Info" boxes, you don't really want to lose it by rebuilding your desktop. I was very happy to learn that there is a solution to this problem so I thought it worth sharing.

The solution is really quite simple, but you must use Resedit. I know a lot of people are afraid of Resedit and that's a shame. It's really a very useful program that Apple supplies for free. Yes, it is also potentially dangerous, but if you follow certain rules, you should be able to benefit from its use without worry. Mainly, always use backup copies of everything until you figure out what you're doing.

If you don't have Resedit, version 1.2b was on the April update DOM and I believe is still available if you wish to order by mail. It is $3.50 for the disk plus $1 shipping. I believe it is also available on various on line services if you use a modem. There may be a newer version by now, but 1.2b is what I am using.

OK, on to the meat of this article: how to save your "Get Info" comments –

Open Resedit. Open the desktop file of the desired disk and find FCMT. Fig.1. Copy it. Fig.2. Close desktop file. Create a new file by selecting "New" from the File menu and giving it a name. Paste FCMT into it. Close Resedit, saving changes. When you get back to Finder, you'll see your new ResEdit file. Fig.3. Now, if it's a System disk or hard disk you want to rebuild, shut down then reboot holding down the Command and Option keys. (Takes awhile on hard disk.) If it's a floppy, just eject, then reinsert it while holding down Command/Option to rebuild desktop. Open Resedit again. Open the file you created previously and copy FCMT. Close that file and open the desktop file – you'll notice there is no FCMT now. Paste – now FCMT is there. Quit Resedit after clicking on "Yes" when asked if you want to save changes. Now you can throw away the temporary file and everything should be back to normal – except better.

By the way, a desktop rebuild solved my problem of HyperCard stacks not opening with a double-click. And because I saved and restored my FCMTs like this, nothing was lost. (I would guess that FCMT probably stands for Finder Comments.)

MUG NEWS SERVICE, 1989

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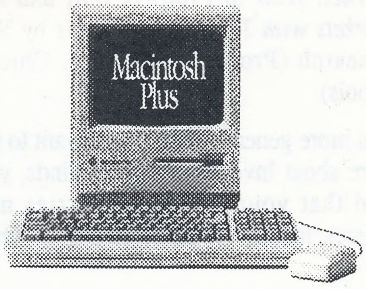

NCMC October 1989 Meetings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	**Desktop Pub** Up & Running West 7:30 PM 2	**Hypercard & Programming** Up & Running West 7:30 PM 3	**Executive Meeting** 4	5	6	7
8	Thanksgiving Day Yom Kippur 9	**PublicDomain** Computer Connection 7:00 PM 10	**GuyKawasaki** Earl of March HS Kanata 7:30 PM 11	12	13	14
15	**Business** Up & Running West 7:30 PM 16	**Music & Midi** Lasercomp Solutions 7:30 P.M. 17	**CAD/CAM** Up & Running West 7:30 P.M. 18	19	20	21
22	**GeneralMeeting** Sir Robert Borden 7:00PD Sales 7:30 Start 23	24	25	**Green Macintosh** Lasercomp Solutions 7:30 PM 26	27	28
29	30	Halloween 31				

NCMC November 1989 Meetings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Executive Meeting 1	2	3	4
5	**Desktop Publishing** Up & Running West 7:30 PM 6	**Hypercard & Programming** Up & Running West 7:30 PM 7	8	9	10	Remembrance Day 11
12	**Database** North Star 7:30 P.M. 13	**PublicDomain** Computer Connection 7:00 PM 14	**CAD/CAM** Up & Running West 7:30 PM 15	16	17	18
19	**Business** Up & Running West 7:30 PM 20	**Music & Midi** Lasercomp Solutions 7:30 P.M. 21	22	23	24	25
26	**General Meeting** Sir Robert Borden 7:00 PM-PDSales 7:30 PM-Start 27	28	29	**Green Macintosh** Lasercomp Solutions 7:30 PM 30		

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